

No. 65,914



THE TIMES

35P

THURSDAY JUNE 12 1997

**BLAIR'S NANNY
AND THE
DOWNING STREET
DOORMEN**
by Sue Cameron
PAGE 22



GOOD EVANS

Mariella Frostrup
on the soft side
of TV's
bad boy
PAGE 21



BEST FOR BOOKS

Jeanette Winterson
on Radclyffe Hall
PLUS Howard Davies
on Anthony Powell
PAGES 40, 41



BEST for JOBS

Graduates 24K
Managers 70K
Marketing 90K
Executives 100K
32 PAGES OF APPOINTMENTS

Cold shoulder for new ruling body

Hong Kong flying visit for Blair

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR, AND JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING

TONY BLAIR is to boycott China's attempts to secure legitimacy for Hong Kong's unelected legislature at the events marking the territory's return to Beijing.

The Prime Minister will attend the midnight handover ceremony on June 30. But he will not attend the inauguration of the new ruling body and instead fly back to London almost immediately.

Britain had been concerned at attempts to have the members of the Provisional Legislative Council sworn in in the presence of foreign guests. Neither Britain nor America recognises this body which will take office when the Chinese assume control.

The Foreign Office said: "There has never been any question of British ministers attending the swearing-in of a

legislature chosen by a hand-picked body of 400."

Mr Blair's decision came as it was confirmed that Chinese Communist leaders would stand on Hong Kong soil for the first time during the June 30 ceremonies. Beijing ended months of speculation on the level of representation by announcing that President Jiang Zemin and the Premier, Li Peng, would attend.

It had often been assumed that Li Peng, one of the men behind the military crackdown at Tiananmen Square in 1989, would not attend, given his poor international image and the fact that some ordinary Hong Kong Chinese say they fear him.

However, in the delicate power equation after the death of paramount leader Deng Xiaoping, there are prob-

ably internal political reasons why the Premier should be in Hong Kong for China's resumption of sovereignty after 158 years.

Announcing that he would join the Prince of Wales and Robin Cook at the handover, Mr Blair told the Commons that Britain had a moral duty to the colony's population:

"We do owe a considerable obligation to the 6.5 million people who live in Hong Kong. We are committed to the Joint Declaration that protects the rights of people in Hong Kong. We are committed to that and we will make sure and do everything in our power to make sure it is carried out."

Mr Blair recalled that action had been taken to ensure people in Hong Kong were helped to get British passports "precisely because of the concerns that we had", and he added: "We take those concerns very seriously; we take their interests very seriously and though, of course, we wish for good relations with China — that is important both for Hong Kong and the British national interest — we want to make sure that the words of the Joint Declaration are carried out."

Chris Patten, the Hong Kong Governor, welcomed Mr Blair's announcement.

Both Jiang and Li, and foreign minister Qian Qichen, will spend only a few hours in Hong Kong before flying back to Beijing, where midnight ceremonies will have been held at ticket-only occasion in Tiananmen Square — most such events in China will be by invitation only through the danwei or work units; the masses for whom the Communist Party says it speaks can watch on television.

Jiang will then host a state banquet in the Great Hall of the People here, to be attended by 3,500 guests.

In Hong Kong, up to 2,000 PLA soldiers will arrive in the SAR at the stroke of midnight, and the remaining 4,000 troops of Beijing's initial military presence will move in during the early hours of July, according to Hong Kong press reports.

In a letter dated September 24, 1942, Alston writes of the

French backing for Britain's frontiers

FROM ANDREW PIERCE IN PARIS

PRESIDENT CHIRAC of France gave a positive response last night to Tony Blair in his battle to keep Britain's border controls.

The support of M Chirac — which looks likely after 60 minutes of talks at the Elysée Palace — would be a decisive factor in the Prime Minister's efforts to secure legal protection for Britain's frontiers at the EU summit in Amsterdam next week.

The French appear ready to line up behind Germany, who signalled support last week for Britain against the Dutch, who hold the European Union presidency. The Dutch are Britain's main opponents.

Mr Blair made clear in the talks that the protection of British frontiers was the main stumbling block to reaching an agreement at the conference. He stressed that he was not prepared to make a concession and accept an opt-out on border controls which could be liable to a legal challenge in the European courts. He told M Chirac that he wanted the agreement en-

shined in writing in the new treaty. In an interview with the BBC shortly before he touched down in Paris, he said: "It's tremendously important for Britain to secure its legal force in the treaty over our own frontiers so we have control over our own immigration and asylum policy."

The Prime Minister insisted he was not a new kid on the block lecturing the rest of the EU. "We are saying that Britain is back on the international stage."

President Chirac expressed no objections to Mr Blair's plans to resist the Dutch proposals for a Europe-wide frontier which would effectively demolish Britain's island status. Hubert Vedrine, the new Foreign Minister in Lionel Jospin's Socialist Government who attended the talks, also raised no objections.

A Downing Street source said that the Prime Minister was greatly encouraged by the reception from President Chirac. "We remain very hopeful," he said.

Mr Blair made clear in the talks that the protection of British frontiers was the main stumbling block to reaching an agreement at the conference. He stressed that he was not prepared to make a con-

Stowaways' 185mph trip under Eurostar

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

FOUR illegal immigrants were being questioned last night after travelling into Britain crammed in a box under a Eurostar carriage.

The stowaways from Moldova had squeezed into a space about 18 ins high and only a few feet wide, and were surrounded by ventilation equipment and machinery as the train raced through France at up to 185 mph.

They were discovered when stewards serving breakfast heard tapping beneath their feet as the train slowed down for the approach to Ashford International station.

British Transport Police were alerted and the four men were rescued, arrested and taken to Dover for questioning by immigration officials. None was seriously injured, although they were suffering from shock.



Last night Eurostar launched an investigation into how the four managed to sneak past security officials to board the 8.13 from Paris Gare du Nord to London Waterloo.

Under-carriage equipment such as batteries, pipes, wires and ventilators is contained in a metal box. The space can be reached via a hatch on the outside of the carriage to which only Eurostar engineers have the key.

Wimbledon side sold to Norway

BY JOHN GOODBODY

TWO leading Norwegian businessmen are to spend about £30 million to buy an 80 per cent stake in Wimbledon, so becoming the first foreigners to become majority shareholders in a Premiership football club.

Kjell Inge Røkke, 38, who owns Europe's biggest trawler fleet, and his associate, Bjørn Rune Gjelsten, are to inject money into the small South London club that won the 1988 FA Cup.

The pair already own an elite club, Molde FK, which won the Norwegian cup in 1994. Mr Gjelsten, 40, said yesterday: "We have ambitions for a fruitful co-operation between Molde and Wimbledon."

£30m injection. page 52

Ann Widdecombe switches to Clarke

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

ANN WIDDECOMBE, the former Prisons Minister, last night threw her support behind Kenneth Clarke in the Tory leadership race.

Miss Widdecombe, who voted for Peter Lilley in the first round, gave the former Chancellor's campaign an important boost after the surge for William Hague, the frontrunner, who gained the support of Mr Lilley and Michael Howard on Tuesday night.

She became the first senior Eurosceptic to transfer to Mr Clarke. His stance on Europe is seen as one of the obstacles to him going through to victory in the later stages.

Miss Widdecombe's devastating attack on Mr Howard's handling of the sacking of Derek Lewis, the former prisons chief, damaged Mr Howard's leadership campaign. He finished fifth

and last in the opening round. Meanwhile feuding on the Right erupted yesterday as John Redwood resisted calls to pull out and questioned Mr Hague's right-wing and Eurosceptic credentials.

Amid clear signs that the contest will go to a third and final ballot after Tuesday's second round, Mr Clarke also moved to slow the Hague bandwagon by warning his opponents that the battle could not be settled through a series of backstage deals.

Mr Clarke, who finished top in the first round on Tuesday but may be trailing Mr Hague in the run-up to the second, said that secret deals would

Continued on page 2, col 5

Buy Esquire

this month and get
**NORMAN
MAILER'S**
classic account of
**THE
RUMBLE
IN THE
JUNGLE**
absolutely free



**NEW
ISSUE
ON
SALE
NOW**

Here beginneth a lesson according to Blair

THUS far, Tony Blair is doing well at the remodelled Prime Minister's Questions. He is confident and plausible, and acquits himself with growing aplomb. To two pet tactics we noted last week — promising a "review" and bemoaning the mess left by the Tories — we can now add a third.

Challenged over the practicalities of any promised government action, Mr Blair offers instead an impassioned sermonise on the reason why the Government wished to act in the first place.

Yesterday, accused by Michael Heseltine (deputising for John Major) of ratting on undertakings to children in assisted places, Mr Blair spoke movingly of the philoso-

phy behind the winding up of the scheme. This was interesting, but not the point Mr Heseltine had raised.

Accused by Paddy Ashdown of applying public spending curbs in an unthinking way, the Prime Minister spoke with feeling on the need to curb public spending. One sympathised, but heard no answer to Mr Ashdown's question.

The tactic is effective but could be taken too far. One fears that if Cherie were to ask whether Tony had remembered to put the cat out, she might be treated to a disquisition on the importance of responsible pet-ownership.

Besides, his parliamentary foes are not so easily brushed aside. Now the old, twice-

weekly session of Prime Minister's Questions has been abolished.

Instead of allowing the leaders of the two main opposition parties a short crack at him on Tuesday and Thursday, Mr Blair's Wednesday brings a single but sustained grilling.

Last week, John Major drew blood by pinning him down in a long wrangle over devolution. This week it was Paddy Ashdown's turn to pock the Prime Minister with a stick.

His point was a narrow one: Labour had promised not to

increase spending plans in any department. Did this mean that money saved in one department could not be reallocated to another?

Amid a good deal of huffing and puffing, the Prime Minister seemed to confirm that it did. Well, said Ashdown, this was doctrinaire and contrary to common sense. Blair began to wriggle, his "look" count ("look, it's always possible to say...") rising alarmingly.

When Mr Blair begins to scatter "look" into his speech, it is a sign he is overheating —

rather like a backfiring car. Finally he protested: "I have to say I do not think that is a very substantial point." In other words: "I can't answer it."

Tories found themselves cheering the Liberal Democrat leader, even though (if they thought about it) they probably supported Mr Blair over spending.

Mr Blair then told Mr Ashdown why one could not increase spending on everything one's heart desired. Ashdown had never suggested that one could.

Perhaps it was this exchange which injected a little tension into the Prime Minister's performance. Sylvia Neal (Lab, Halesowen & Rowley Regis) rose to put to him a

simple sum: 203 minus five. A look of panic crossed Mr Blair's face. Was this a trick question? Was the answer not 198?

How appalling if he got it wrong. Who can forget the US Vice-President mistaking the spelling of potato?

But Mrs Heal was not trying to catch her leader out. She simply wanted to make the point that half of Britain's 9-year-olds cannot do this sum. 44-year-olds like Mr Blair were not being tested.

Relaxing visibly, the Prime Minister confessed (amid laughter on all sides) that he was conscious of the shade of Dan Quayle. There followed a short sermon on the importance of education.

THE TIMES NEWS SKETCH

Straw backs curbs on police 'sickness'

Jack Straw is backing measures to prevent police officers facing internal investigation from claiming ill-health and escaping on sickness pensions. Scotland Yard sources say that the Home Secretary promised Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, his support for reform of the pension and discipline system.

Police sources say that he also promised action on other police sickness pensions. In London 65 per cent of all retirements are sickness pensions which are full pensions normally available to officers only after 30 years' service or at the age of 55.

Aitken's £3m secret

Jonathan Aitken admitted in the High Court failing to disclose to fellow director Saudi Arabian investments of more than £3 million in the troubled breakfast channel TV-am. He said it had given too high a priority to his Arab clients' wishes for confidentiality. Mr Aitken is suing *The Guardian* and television's *World in Action* over allegations in 1995 that, while a minister, he was financially dependent on wealthy Arabs. The hearing continues.

Blunkett eases phase-out

The Government yesterday bowed to pressure to ease the phasing out of the Assisted Places Scheme (David Charter writes). Children who were given a "clear promise" of a subsidised place at independent school up to the age of 13 will be able to stay on, even though the Education Bill proposes ending state assistance at 11. David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, said that the concession would apply to about 300 children.

London mayor watchdog

An elected mayor of London would be given wide-ranging powers to call American-style congressional hearings to investigate controversial issues, covering anything from drug abuse in the capital and the threatened closure of London hospitals to provision of arts and tourism in the city. Nick Raynsford, the Minister for London, said there was a strong case for elected mayors scrutinising areas over which they had no direct powers.

Rethink on Britannia

Ministers are reviewing the previous Government's decision to fund a \$60 million replacement for the Royal Yacht Britannia. Lord Gilbert, Defence Procurement Minister, said: "It's a question of priorities whether we would rather have a yacht, with the very high running costs that Britannia or a successor would have, against other provisions in the public service." He said the Government had received "four or five very interesting proposals".

Clue to cataract cure

The eyes may benefit from hormone replacement therapy, according to research in Spain on women taking oestrogen. The treatment is known to prevent brittle bones, but the new study suggests it also slows the normal process of hardening and clouding of the eye's lens which causes cataracts. Scientists have long suspected that hormones play a part in cataract development because the condition is more common among women.

First inmates board ship

Twenty-one offenders yesterday boarded the first prison ship to be used in England and Wales since the Victorian era. They will be joined over the next few days by 29 other low-risk inmates. The prisoners are being guarded by 60 staff on board the vessel, HM prison Weare, undergoing £11 million of improvements. The five-deck ship will eventually house 400 offenders who will be held in better quality cells than those jailed on shore. Diary, page 22

Revenge prize for artist

A work by the artist R.B. Kitaj which is an attack on critics whom he blamed for the death of his wife from a brain haemorrhage, has been selected by the Royal Academy as the most distinguished in the Summer Exhibition. The Charles Wallington prize, worth £25,000, was awarded for *Sandra Tress*, which features a composition inspired by Manet's *Execution of Maximilian*, with a grotesque figure facing a firing-squad.

New A-levels delayed

Tougher A-level courses set to schools only last week were put on hold by the Government yesterday to restart talks on a new qualification which would be the basis for entry to higher education. Baroness Blackstone, the Education and Employment Minister, said the Government wanted to think again about how the sixth-form curriculum could be broadened without sacrificing academic rigour. The aim was to produce a single certificate for university entry.

Superministry born

The merger of the Transport and Environment Departments into a "superministry" was announced by John Prescott. The move is designed to put environmental issues at the forefront of government policy. The merger prompted Sir Patrick Brown, the Permanent Secretary at the Transport Department, to announce his retirement. Sir Patrick steered through privatisations of the railways and the water industry under the Tories.

Tribute to explorer

More than 50 admirers and descendants toured London yesterday to pay tribute to Sir John Franklin, Britain's greatest Arctic explorer, on the 150th anniversary of his death on an expedition from which none of his officers or men returned. Franklin led a series of voyages to the Arctic in the first half of the 19th century, mapping hundreds of miles of coastline, completing the map of Canada and determining the shape of the North American continent.

Opera faces Arts Council inquiry

By DALYA ALBERG

THE Arts Council yesterday announced an external inquiry into the beleaguered Royal Opera House. In stating that it was only focusing on the "relationship" between the council and the house, it added a puzzling twist to a drama that has recently verged on farce.

"Why just the 'relationship?'" asked one observer. "This looks like a whitewash over the way the chief executive was appointed."

Others also wondered why the inquiry had been limited to one aspect of a company dogged by problems. As well as producing an outcry when it received £78 million of lottery cash for its £214-million redevelopment, it has been accused of incompetence in finding venues during the two-year renovation and over its handling of the departure of the chief executive.

Genista McIntosh, who resigned after 18 weeks because of ill-health, was replaced by the Arts Council secretary-general, Mary Allen: the appointment caused concern as the board had bypassed any official interviews. "They are feeling guilty about not advertising the job," one observer remarked.

Raymond Gubbay, the



Mary Allen, whose recent appointment as chief executive of the Royal Opera House caused concern

music promoter, welcomed the inquiry: "About 18 months ago, I had an unsatisfactory correspondence with Mary Allen. I will produce copies concerning what was going to happen to the house during Covent Garden's closure and its impingement on the commercial world. I don't think she dealt with it in a fair and equitable way."

"There has been an unhealthy relationship," says a Heritage Department source. "We are saying that there might be some short-term solutions to ease the pressure in the next few weeks or months, but longer term we ought to look at what we do on a permanent

basis." Mrs Taylor said she personally believed that there was much advantage in having MPs physically going through the lobbies to vote, because colleagues were able to meet and "ministers can get off the hook and you can count the votes".

Mrs Taylor told a press gallery lunch that the Modernisation Committee, which had met for the first time yesterday, had decided to ask the Clerk of the House and the Sergeant-at-Arms to examine the Commons voting system.

Under the present voting system, the clerks of the House note MPs' names and inform the tellers, two MPs on each side who count them up. The process can take ten to 15 minutes. Many of the clerks do not recognise many of the new Labour MPs.

Mrs Taylor said: "We cannot rule out electronic voting, but we are not advocating any particular solution. We are saying that there might be some short-term solutions to ease the pressure in the next few weeks or months, but longer term we ought to look at what we do on a permanent

Fast organised access to information and the Internet

“CompuServe is still tops for providing useful information for computing or your business in the UK.”

PC Advisor

Try it for FREE

Call us today for your Free Internet Starter Pack:

- Free interactive CD Tour introducing CompuServe & the Internet
- Free 1 month's membership including 20 hours free online*
- Free personalised e-mail address
- Full Internet access

Call 0990 000030



COMPUVERSE

news business leisure entertainment education reference computing

*Subject to acceptance by CompuServe. *Offer ends 31st July 1997. *Offer available to new members only. *Offer applies to the first 20 hours of online use. *Offer excludes telephone calls and other services. *Offer subject to change without notice.

EU finds BSE claim flawed

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN'S attempt to win a softening of the European ban on its worldwide beef exports ran into trouble yesterday when the EU's scientific committee said it was not satisfied by its application for the exemption of cattle from herds deemed to be free of "mad cow" disease.

The committee, which is a key part of the EU's decision-making machinery on beef, said it had found five deficiencies in the request by the Ministry of Agriculture last February for the exemption of

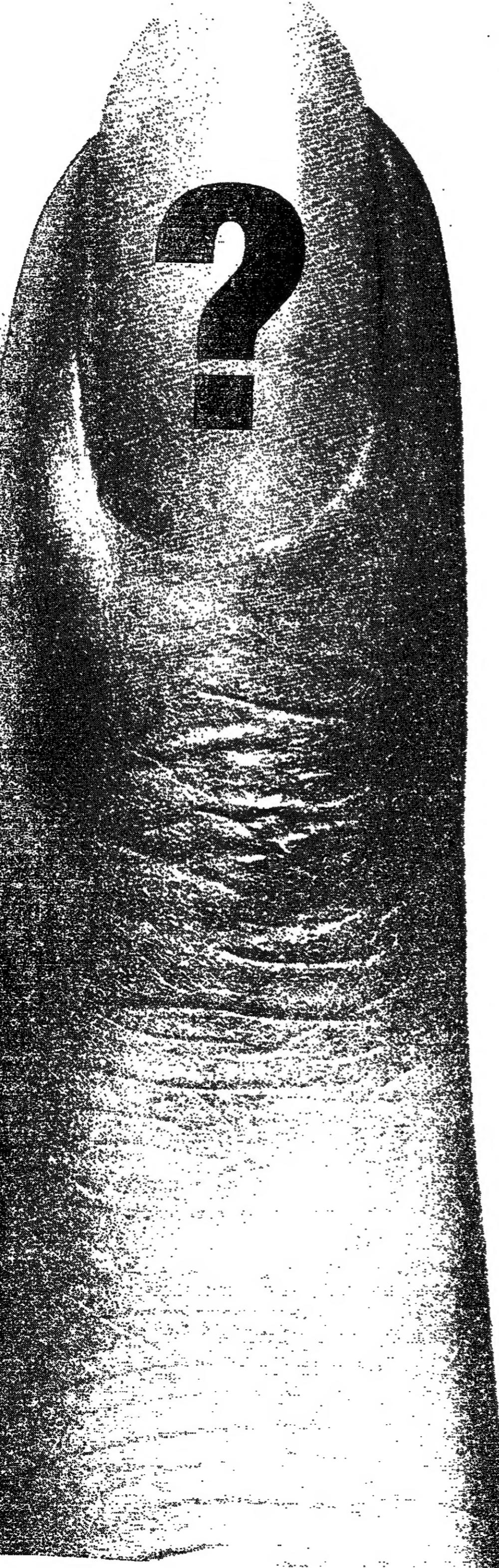
"BSE-free" herds from the ban, imposed 15 months ago. The main concern lay in uncertainty over methods used to identify and trace animals. There were also doubts about measures to prevent contamination and the quality of Britain's veterinary controls. The committee's statement indicated that it would approve the request if the Government remedied the problems which it had found. The decision was not a surprise because the EU authorities have raised repeated

questions over the reliability of controls on British cattle. Herds from Northern Ireland, where cattle have been subjected to a tighter system of identification, are expected to benefit first from a relaxation of the export embargo. At the same time, the committee yesterday gave a warning in Germany, France, Sweden and Spain that it would start court proceedings against them within a month for their alleged failure to obey EU rules on eliminating the risk of BSE in animal feed.

ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPICE
MARE ST, LONDON E2 4SA.
(Charity Ref No. 23132)
Since 1905 we have shared the grief and eased the pain of countless suffering souls.
Last year alone 900 found peace with the help of your vital gifts. Most of them died of cancer — so serenely that you would hardly know.
Your concern is as encouraging as your generosity and we thank you for your inspiring trust.
Sister Superior.

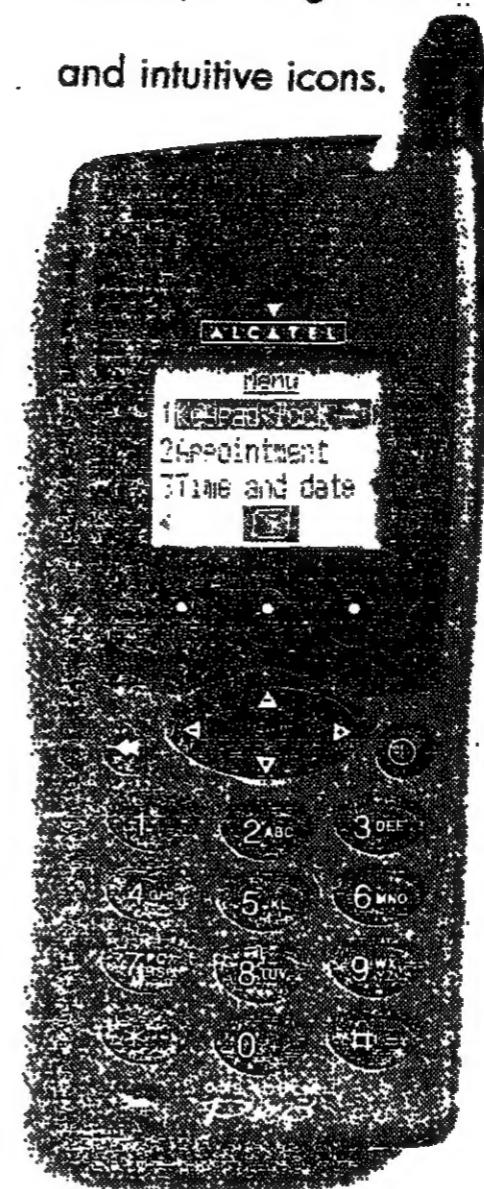
devantleuxenet

**Don't waste time
looking for the user's guide.
► It's under your finger. ◄**



ONE TOUCH *Pro*

With the
Alcatel One Touch PRO™,
it's very easy to access
the function you want.
Instantly. Thanks to its
unique One Touch™
concept, large screen
and intuitive icons.



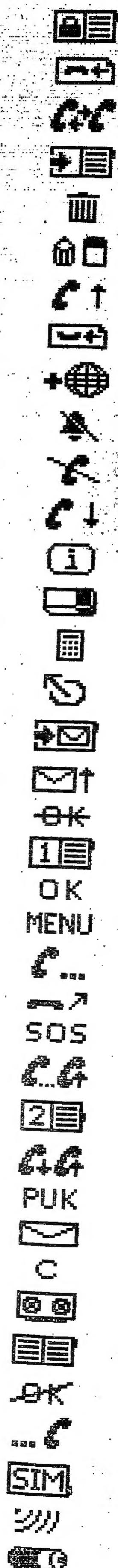
You also get fast access
to a whole raft of information. Including the easy
to follow instructions for
fully using your new
terminal. The One Touch
PRO™. It's because it's
simpler that you can
go faster.

Call 0 1276 67 53 72
for information.

Save time in no time.

▼
ALCATEL

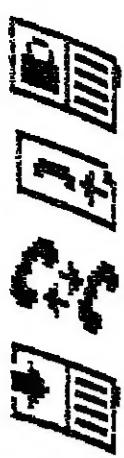
The Hi-Speed Company



THE TIMES THURSDAY JUNE 12 1997

WEEKEND MONDAY 22

HOME NEWS 5



Why boys have to learn what comes naturally to girls

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

FEMALE intuition is more than just girl talk. Scientists say it is the simple truth: women really are better at detecting nuances and reading social situations.

Men can be taught to be equally skilful at dealing with other people, but to women it comes naturally and the reason lies in their genes. The gene responsible may explain why men are vulnerable to disorders such as autism, which is an extreme form of the inability to put oneself in somebody else's place.

The conclusions come from a study of girls with a genetic abnormality called Turner syndrome, which affects one in 2,500. They are small in stature and infertile and tend to have problems at school,

although they are of normal intelligence. Their behaviour is disruptive, they are demanding, easily upset and hard to reason with.

The cause of the syndrome is well known: instead of having the two X chromosomes of normal girls, Turner syndrome sufferers have one.

Professor David Skuse of the Institute of Child Health in London has investigated a group of 80 Turner syndrome girls, collaborating with scientists from the Wessex Regional Genetics Laboratory in Salisbury and the Medical Research Council's Applied Psychology Unit in Cambridge.

The team report in *Nature* that they were able to identify in each case whether the girls

had inherited their single X chromosome from their mother or their father. In 55 girls it came from the mother, and in 25 from the father.

They then compared the two groups. There were no significant differences in terms of appearance, but they found that those with paternally derived X chromosomes were better adjusted socially and had fewer problems getting on with people and fitting in at school. The girls who had inherited their single X chromosome from their mothers, however, were social misfits.

The team then applied the same tests to groups of normal boys and girls. They found that the same differences existed between girls and boys as between the two groups of Turner syndrome girls. Boys have a single X chromosome, which they inherit from their mother — just like the Turner syndrome girls with the serious sociability problems.

The team concludes that difficulties in relating to other people are linked to a gene on the X chromosome that is "imprinted", that is, has different effects depending on whether it is inherited from a father or a mother. The irony is that while women have an "active" version, making them intuitive and understanding, they cannot pass it on to their children. In men the gene is inactive, yet they can pass it on to their daughters, in whom it is active.

The discovery has enormous implications. "It means that the ability to suss out a situation by nuance or by intuition, has a genetic origin," Professor Skuse says. "It is nothing to do with the hormones, or with the way boys and girls are brought up. Men are not doomed. They can pick up social skills. These skills can be taught, but this needs to be part of a boy's education, whereas it comes naturally to a girl."

Why evolution should have arranged things thus remains a puzzle, but Professor Skuse sees boys as a kind of "blank slate" on to which experiences can be imposed. "If you want to socialise boys into becoming part of a hunting party, army or football team, it helps to start with a blank slate, on which a dominant male can impose his mores.

Thus Earth and 3753 conduct a kind of stately dance, in which we are protected from impact because we share an orbit. The closest approach happens once every 385 years, when the asteroid comes within one tenth of an astronomical unit — or 40 times the distance between Earth and Moon. The last close approach took place in 1900, but nobody noticed; the asteroid is barely visible. The next will be in 2285.

It occupies the same orbit as Earth and its average distance from the Sun is virtually the same as ours. But its orbit is not in the same plane, and a collision appears very unlikely.

The asteroid, which is three miles across, was identified in 1986 but nobody realised that it was a kind of twin to Earth. In *Nature* magazine two astronomers from York University in Ontario and one from the University of Turku in Finland reveal its secrets.

The asteroid's orbit is highly eccentric; at present it is orbiting slightly faster than Earth so it is slowly catching us up. As it approaches Earth from an orbit slightly inside ours, the gravitational attraction ac-

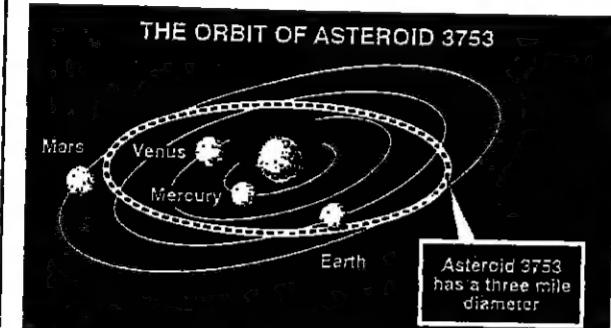
celerates it slightly. This increases the asteroid's orbit, moving it outside Earth's orbit. Carl Murray of Queen Mary and Westfield College says.

This makes it slightly slower than Earth, so we move away from it. Eventually, we lap it, and approach from the other direction.

This time gravitational attraction slows it down, moves it back into a tighter orbit and it moves away again.

Thus Earth and 3753 conduct a kind of stately dance, in which we are protected from impact because we share an orbit. The closest approach happens once every 385 years, when the asteroid comes within one tenth of an astronomical unit — or 40 times the distance between Earth and Moon. The last close approach took place in 1900, but nobody noticed; the asteroid is barely visible. The next will be in 2285.

"So it could have been an advantage to be socially undeveloped up to adolescence. You wouldn't find many women prepared to face the guns at Gallipoli, but there were plenty of men prepared to do it. Maybe if you are going out to kill people, less empathy is an advantage."



Secret companion plays tag with Earth

By NIGEL HAWKES

THE Earth has a ghostly companion on its journey around the Sun. We seldom see it and never come near it but an asteroid called 3753 plays tag with us, sidling up and slipping away.

It occupies the same orbit as Earth and its average distance from the Sun is virtually the same as ours. But its orbit is not in the same plane, and a collision appears very unlikely.

The asteroid, which is three miles across, was identified in 1986 but nobody realised that it was a kind of twin to Earth. In *Nature* magazine two astronomers from York University in Ontario and one from the University of Turku in Finland reveal its secrets.

The asteroid's orbit is highly eccentric; at present it is orbiting slightly faster than Earth so it is slowly catching us up. As it approaches Earth from an orbit slightly inside ours, the gravitational attraction ac-

celerates it slightly. This increases the asteroid's orbit, moving it outside Earth's orbit. Carl Murray of Queen Mary and Westfield College says.

This makes it slightly slower than Earth, so we move away from it. Eventually, we lap it, and approach from the other direction.

This time gravitational attraction slows it down, moves it back into a tighter orbit and it moves away again.

Thus Earth and 3753 conduct a kind of stately dance, in which we are protected from impact because we share an orbit. The closest approach happens once every 385 years, when the asteroid comes within one tenth of an astronomical unit — or 40 times the distance between Earth and Moon. The last close approach took place in 1900, but nobody noticed; the asteroid is barely visible. The next will be in 2285.

"So it could have been an advantage to be socially undeveloped up to adolescence. You wouldn't find many women prepared to face the guns at Gallipoli, but there were plenty of men prepared to do it. Maybe if you are going out to kill people, less empathy is an advantage."



Singing his praises: the Simply Red singer Mick Hucknall yesterday after receiving an honorary degree for his contribution to life in Manchester. Hucknall, who was born in the city, helped to organise fundraising after the IRA bombing last year. The degree was from University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology

Conman fleeces Derby punters

By STEWART TENDERL
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A BOGUS bookmaker fled with £40,000 after setting up a pitch at the Derby. He offered such generous odds on the red-hot favourite, Entrepreneur, that big bookies at the course laid off some of their bets with him.

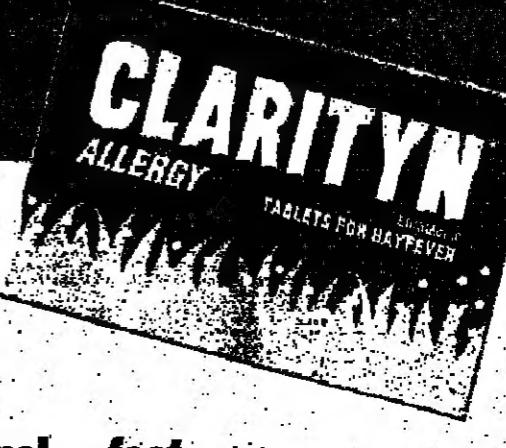
In the run-up to the race at Epsom on Saturday the书呆子, calling himself John Batten and trading as Lucan, had a long queue of punters eager to back Entrepreneur at odds of 7-4. The horse was odds-on with most bookies. Many punters also placed bets on other horses, including the eventual winner, Benny the Dip, who finished 11-1.

By the time the race was over, Lucan had — like his titled namesake — disappeared. He had set up on a public area in the centre of the course, known as the Hill, which is difficult to regulate because of the crowds on Derby Day. He showed a course official a fake magistrates' licence and was given a bookmaker's badge for £75. Officials now realise that the fake licence did not have enough digits on it.

Stephen Wallis, racecourse manager of Epsom, said: "This guy seems to have been an old-fashioned conman. He was seen stuffing money into his pockets during the Derby, after which he disappeared. We have received 79 complaints so far, which I suspect is the tip of the iceberg."



Clarityn Allergy can relieve all your hayfever symptoms. One small, easy to swallow tablet starts to work in minutes and delivers a full 24 hours' relief without making you drowsy. Clarityn Allergy is available from your pharmacist without a prescription.



Clarityn Allergy gets you back to normal — fast

Always read the label. Clarityn Allergy contains loratadine. For further information on hayfever and its treatment, please write to: Schering-Plough Consumer Health, Division of Schering-Plough Ltd, Welwyn Garden City AL7 1TW

SCHERING-PLUGH
CONSUMER HEALTH

Garrard Fleur-de-Lys
Earrings for a mere £575.

She won't believe her ears.

THE CLASSIC BEAUTY OF GARRARD'S UNIQUE 18 CARAT FLEUR-DE-LYS GOLD EARRINGS IS MATCHED BY A PRICE THAT'S EQUALLY ATTRACTIVE, £575. PART OF A RANGE OF EXQUISITE NEW COLLECTIONS FROM GARRARD, OUR GOLD EARRINGS START FROM AS LITTLE AS £150. AND WHEN YOU SEE THEM, YOU WON'T BELIEVE YOUR EYES EITHER.

GARRARD
THE CROWN JEWELLERS
112 Regent Street, London, W1A 2JJ Tel: 0171 734 7020

Driving rain and intemperate drivers put a spoke in the wheel of National Bike to Work Day

Our man on the Moulton rides the trails of two cities

France, home to the world's most famous cycle race, has an international reputation for looking after cyclists that shames Britain, to the fury of the two-wheeled lobby. As National Bike Week attempted to boost Britain's bicycling numbers beyond the six million regulars, I took to the streets of London and Paris to compare their treatment of the cycling minority.

My mission looked fine on paper. A specially delivered collapsible bicycle would combine with the latest feat of British transport engineering, the Channel Tunnel and its Eurostar train service to enable me to fit between meetings in the two capitals. But the weather conspired with road hogs to produce a two-day trill that should never have been attempted by the cycling-conscious or sane.

My all-purpose bicycle, loaned by the RAC, appeared to be the answer to the growing trend of barring bikes from trains. But after dismantling the gleaming machine and stowing away the halves into a pair of bulky, aft-long "body bags", the concept of a portable bike seemed a little less convincing.

After the comfort of air-conditioned train travel, I paid the price of smugness as I arrived at Gare du Nord station to be engulfed by the sweltering heat of Paris in June.

The city boasts three times as much in cycle lanes as London does, although British ministers have begun a campaign to bring their capital into line with rival cities



Arthur Leathley finds his enthusiasm dampened after going out and about in Paris and London

across Europe. Heading precariously up the six-lane Boulevard de Magenta, packed with aspiring Grand Prix drivers, I was relieved by the sight of a clear cycle lane. But why were no cyclists using it?

The reason became clear when a Peugeot 405 screeched to a halt outside a *tobac*, blocking the cycle lane and forcing me to swerve in front of a gesticulating coach driver. Only the rapid response of the Moulton bicycle offered the flexibility to manoeuvre the packed lanes of Paris.

As cycle lanes no longer seemed to offer sanctuary from the notorious traffic system, I veered into the back streets to find a circuitous but safer route before returning to the calm of the Eurostar and the journey back to London.

Yesterday, refreshed by overnight sleep, I took to the streets of London to play my small part in National Bike to Work Day. The environmental initiative is supported by many local authorities and green groups, who have organised events including the official opening of cycle paths, cycling fun days and festivals.

Although the bike bags enabled me to travel with a cycle on rush-hour trains

from which the machines are normally barred, their bulkiness does little to win the affection of fellow commuters.

After the exhausting heat of Paris came the unseasonal torrential rain of London, a climatic quirk that drowned the best-laid plans of fair-weather cyclists.

As I attempted to avoid the flooded kerbsides on roads from London's Liverpool Street station, few drivers offered enough clearance to allow for sudden wobbles.

London's motorists certainly offer cyclists more respect than do their Parisian counterparts.

However, many clearly believe that a 6in gap between their wing-mirror and a cyclist's elbow allows plenty of room for an emergency manoeuvre.

In the absence of cycle lanes, this leaves a cyclist even more vulnerable than in Paris. Buses, lorries and even cars delight in hugging the kerb, forcing cyclists to weave a ludicrous route between vehicles.

Is cycling to work the answer to our congestion and health problems? If you live in a honey-stoned Cotswold cottage and run an antiques business at the other end of the village, take to the saddle. If you are part of the frenzied world that everyone else inhabits, hail a cab.

Driving rain: a cyclist ignores warnings and battles the elements in London



Dolphin fitted bathrooms

bathroom event

WE PAY
THE VAT
on any bathroom
you choose



PLUS THIS WEEKEND
BUY A TRITON SHOWER
for only £349 INSTALLED

planning to installation, including plumbing, joinery, electrical work, plastering and tiling, it's all included. Visit your local showroom today.

YOU PAY
ONLY
£100
DEPOSIT
and
repay
nothing
until
October 97.

Buy any Dolphin fitted bathroom, and for a limited period, we'll pay the equivalent of the full amount of V.A.T. on everything you purchase. What's more, you'll repay nothing until October 1997! From design and

Judge takes pity on rejected husband with money to burn

A JILTED husband who said he had burnt £125,000 of savings rather than share it with his former wife was spared a jail sentence yesterday. Raymond Orion, 62, was "not in his right mind" when he threw the cash onto a bonfire in his back garden, a judge ruled.

Orion's former wife, Brenda, 61, had asked for him to be jailed for breaching a legal undertaking not to touch their savings. But Judge Hutton said that, with no evidence available to contradict his story that the money had been

burnt, he was forced to accept it was true. "At the time he disposed of this money, presumably by burning it, he was not in his right mind. It would be inappropriate to impose punishment for the contempt of court," the judge said at Gloucester County Court.

Orion, a factory worker, admitted breaching an injunction ordering him not to touch joint assets until his wife's share had been decided. The judge made a costs order against him but ruled it should not be settled until after a hearing to decide the division of assets.

KNOW

WHAT YOU WANT?

GET IT FASTER WITH

ANY ABBEY LOAN

LIMITED OFFER
SUCCESSION ALBERT DAN
APPLICANTS, BELFAST & LEICESTER
HARFAX, STAFFORDSHIRE & LEICESTER
WINDERMERE, STAFFORDSHIRE & LEICESTER

WE'LL MAKE A FAST DECISION ON AMOUNTS BETWEEN £500 AND £15,000 AND OUR EXPERIENCE MEANS YOU NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT BORROWING MORE THAN YOU CAN AFFORD.

AND, IF YOU'RE A HALIFAX OR ALLIANCE & LEICESTER CUSTOMER WITH WINDFALL SHARES, WE'LL SELL THEM FOR FREE WHEN YOU SUCCESSFULLY APPLY FOR AN ABBEYLOAN.
SIMPLY CALL US MONDAY TO FRIDAY 8AM TO 9PM OR SATURDAY 8AM TO 4PM, QUOTING REFERENCE 7250.

0345 54 55 56



www.abbeynational.co.uk

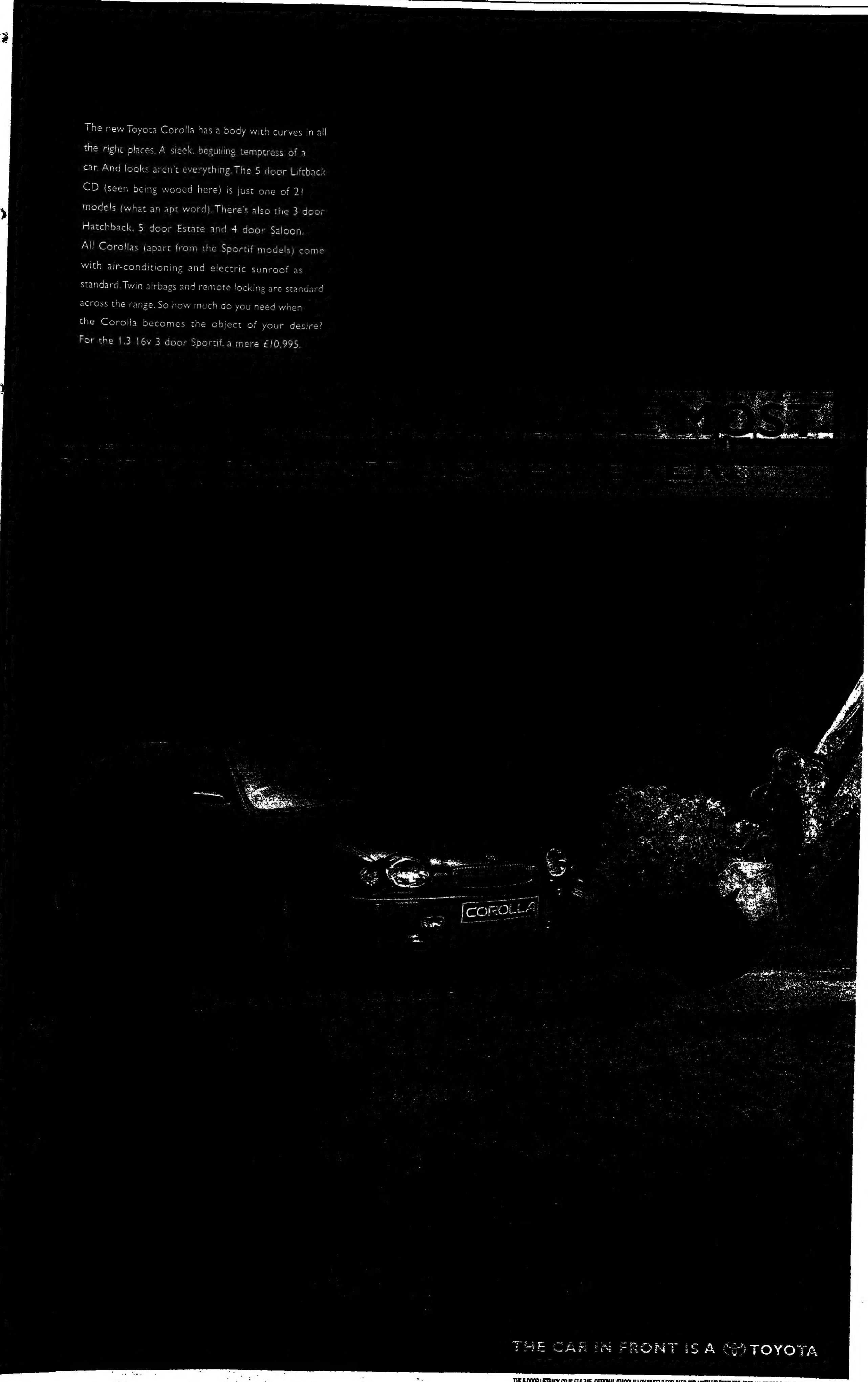


ABBEEY LOAN

Important information: Please note we may need to contact you by telephone. All the information given is subject to change. We're unable to guarantee that we'll be able to arrange a loan for you. ABEEY NATIONAL PLC, ABEEY NATIONAL DIRECT, THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY FOR FINANCIAL DEALAGENCY, ABEEY NATIONAL, ABEEY NATIONAL PLC and ABEEY NATIONAL DIRECT are trademarks of ABEEY National plc, 1000-1100, 1100-1200, 1200-1300, 1300-1400, 1400-1500, 1500-1600, 1600-1700, 1700-1800, 1800-1900, 1900-2000, 2000-2100, 2100-2200, 2200-2300, 2300-2400, 2400-2500, 2500-2600, 2600-2700, 2700-2800, 2800-2900, 2900-3000, 3000-3100, 3100-3200, 3200-3300, 3300-3400, 3400-3500, 3500-3600, 3600-3700, 3700-3800, 3800-3900, 3900-4000, 4000-4100, 4100-4200, 4200-4300, 4300-4400, 4400-4500, 4500-4600, 4600-4700, 4700-4800, 4800-4900, 4900-5000, 5000-5100, 5100-5200, 5200-5300, 5300-5400, 5400-5500, 5500-5600, 5600-5700, 5700-5800, 5800-5900, 5900-6000, 6000-6100, 6100-6200, 6200-6300, 6300-6400, 6400-6500, 6500-6600, 6600-6700, 6700-6800, 6800-6900, 6900-7000, 7000-7100, 7100-7200, 7200-7300, 7300-7400, 7400-7500, 7500-7600, 7600-7700, 7700-7800, 7800-7900, 7900-8000, 8000-8100, 8100-8200, 8200-8300, 8300-8400, 8400-8500, 8500-8600, 8600-8700, 8700-8800, 8800-8900, 8900-9000, 9000-9100, 9100-9200, 9200-9300, 9300-9400, 9400-9500, 9500-9600, 9600-9700, 9700-9800, 9800-9900, 9900-10000, 10000-10100, 10100-10200, 10200-10300, 10300-10400, 10400-10500, 10500-10600, 10600-10700, 10700-10800, 10800-10900, 10900-11000, 11000-11100, 11100-11200, 11200-11300, 11300-11400, 11400-11500, 11500-11600, 11600-11700, 11700-11800, 11800-11900, 11900-12000, 12000-12100, 12100-12200, 12200-12300, 12300-12400, 12400-12500, 12500-12600, 12600-12700, 12700-12800, 12800-12900, 12900-13000, 13000-13100, 13100-13200, 13200-13300, 13300-13400, 13400-13500, 13500-13600, 13600-13700, 13700-13800, 13800-13900, 13900-14000, 14000-14100, 14100-14200, 14200-14300, 14300-14400, 14400-14500, 14500-14600, 14600-14700, 14700-14800, 14800-14900, 14900-15000, 15000-15100, 15100-15200, 15200-15300, 15300-15400, 15400-15500, 15500-15600, 15600-15700, 15700-15800, 15800-15900, 15900-16000, 16000-16100, 16100-16200, 16200-16300, 16300-16400, 16400-16500, 16500-16600, 16600-16700, 16700-16800, 16800-16900, 16900-17000, 17000-17100, 17100-17200, 17200-17300, 17300-17400, 17400-17500, 17500-17600, 17600-17700, 17700-17800, 17800-17900, 17900-18000, 18000-18100, 18100-18200, 18200-18300, 18300-18400, 18400-18500, 18500-18600, 18600-18700, 18700-18800, 18800-18900, 18900-19000, 19000-19100, 19100-19200, 19200-19300, 19300-19400, 19400-19500, 19500-19600, 19600-19700, 19700-19800, 19800-19900, 19900-20000, 20000-20100, 20100-20200, 20200-20300, 20300-20400, 20400-20500, 20500-20600, 20600-20700, 20700-20800, 20800-20900, 20900-21000, 21000-21100, 21100-21200, 21200-21300, 21300-21400, 21400-21500, 21500-21600, 21600-21700, 21700-21800, 21800-21900, 21900-22000, 22000-22100, 22100-22200, 22200-22300, 22300-22400, 22400-22500, 22500-22600, 22600-22700, 22700-22800, 22800-22900, 22900-23000, 23000-23100, 23100-23200, 23200-23300, 23300-23400, 23400-23500, 23500-23600, 23600-23700, 23700-23800, 23800-23900, 23900-24000, 24000-24100, 24100-24200, 24200-24300, 24300-24400, 24400-24500, 24500-24600, 24600-24700, 24700-24800, 24800-24900, 24900-25000, 25000-25100, 25100-25200, 25200-25300, 25300-25400, 25400-25500, 25500-25600, 25600-25700, 25700-25800, 25800-25900, 25900-26000, 26000-26100, 26100-26200, 26200-26300, 26300-26400, 26400-26500, 26500-26600, 26600-26700, 26700-26800, 26800-26900, 26900-27000, 27000-27100, 27100-27200, 27200-27300, 27300-27400, 27400-27500, 27500-27600, 27600-27700, 27700-27800, 27800-27900, 27900-28000, 28000-28100, 28100-28200, 28200-28300, 28300-28400, 28400-28500, 28500-28600, 28600-28700, 28700-28800, 28800-28900, 28900-29000, 29000-29100, 29100-29200, 29200-29300, 29300-29400, 29400-29500, 29500-29600, 29600-29700, 29700-29800, 29800-29900, 29900-30000, 30000-30100, 30100-30200, 30200-30300, 30300-30400, 30400-30500, 30500-30600, 30600-30700, 30700-30800, 30800-30900, 30900-31000, 31000-31100, 31100-31200, 31200-31300, 31300-31400, 31400-31500, 31500-31600, 31600-31700, 31700-31800, 31800-31900, 31900-32000, 32000-32100, 32100-32200, 32200-32300, 32300-32400, 32400-32500, 32500-32600, 32600-32700, 32700-32800, 32800-32900, 32900-33000, 33000-33100, 33100-33200, 33200-33300, 33300-33400, 33400-33500, 33500-33600, 33600-33700, 33700-33800, 33800-33900, 33900-34000, 34000-34100, 34100-34200, 34200-34300, 34300-34400, 34400-34500, 34500-34600, 34600-34700, 34700-34800, 34800-34900, 34900-35000, 35000-35100, 35100-35200, 35200-35300, 35300-35400, 35400-35500, 35500-35600, 35600-35700, 35700-35800, 35800-35900, 35900-36000, 36000-36100,

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
OK
MENU
SOS
C4
25
C6
PUK
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31

The new Toyota Corolla has a body with curves in all the right places. A sleek, beguiling temptress of a car. And looks aren't everything. The 5 door Liftback CD (seen being wood here) is just one of 21 models (what an apt word). There's also the 3 door Hatchback, 5 door Estate and 4 door Saloon. All Corollas (apart from the Sportif models) come with air-conditioning and electric sunroof as standard. Twin airbags and remote locking are standard across the range. So how much do you need when the Corolla becomes the object of your desire? For the 1.3 16v 3 door Sportif, a mere £10,995.



THE CAR IN FRONT IS A TOYOTA

THE 5 DOOR LIFTBACK CD IS £14,345. OPTIONAL TIAGO ALLOY WHEELS FOR £250 AND METALLIC PAINT FOR £235. ALL PRICES QUOTED ARE OTR.

Drivers urged to plant trees to beat pollution



MILLIONS of motorists across Britain, Europe and the United States are to be encouraged to plant trees to combat global warming — and as an alternative to punitive taxes aimed at cutting car use.

International motoring organisations believe that planting trees to absorb emissions of carbon gases offers a cheaper and more effective solution than ever-higher fuel taxes. The governing body of Formula One is launching a pilot scheme at the Hockenheim grand prix in Germany next month to spend \$55,000 (£33,000) planting trees in a common forest in Mexico.

Scientists at Edinburgh University have calculated that the cars of Formula One drivers such as Damon Hill emit 330 tonnes of carbon a year during testing and racing.

■ The motor industry believes it can avoid ever higher fuel taxes and buy breathing space to develop low-pollution technology, Nick Nuttall reports

Manufacturing the cars and tyres produces 440 tonnes of carbon, while transporting them to races emits 473 tonnes.

Richard Tipper of the university's institute of ecology and resource management said yesterday that the number of trees to be planted in Mexico — 25,000 a year — was enough to offset the sport's emissions.

The trees are to be planted by the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), which also represents the AA and RAC. The scheme is

backed by the Mexican Government and an independent bank and endorsed by the US, which believes this kind of project, known as joint implementation, is a less painful way of tackling global warming. It involves industries responsible for pollution in the developed world paying for clean-up schemes in the developing world.

David Ward, general secretary of the FIA, said yesterday that it had set up a fund to pay for the cost of the scheme: "We are paying for the costs of this to cover emissions from

Formula One. But what we are hoping, and this is the really ambitious idea, is to get motorists to offset their own emissions by contributing to the fund. Both the AA and RAC are considering it."

Drivers can also help out closer to home. An average car in Britain and Europe emits around a tonne of carbon a year. To offset this, a motorist would need to pay around £10 a year to plant trees.

Supporters argue this makes far more economic sense than levying extra taxes on fuel, which, to achieve the same reduction in carbon pollution, would cost drivers in Britain £50 a year.

If motorists in large numbers plant trees, then maybe they can turn round to finance ministers such as Gordon Brown and begin

producing six billion tonnes of carbon annually from burning fossil fuels. He said that an estimated 40 to 100 billion tonnes of carbon could be absorbed by planting new forests, the equivalent of up to 16 years of carbon pollution at current levels.

Carbon pollution from transport accounts for around 13 per cent of emissions in the European Union. Mr Ward said carbon sequestration offered a breathing space of five decades.

However, critics fear governments and power-generation, car and other companies will use such schemes to postpone the costly development of anti-pollution technologies and the changes in lifestyle needed to curb the burning of fossil fuels.

Dr Tipper said the world was

DAVID SIMS/GREENPEACE

Stay as long as you like, activists on Rockall told

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

GREENPEACE activists have set up home on Rockall, the barren rocky stack 289 miles off northwest Scotland, and say they will not leave until the Government promises to stop oil exploration in the Atlantic.

Two men and a woman arrived by helicopter on Tuesday night and promised to stay indefinitely in a 12ft by 6ft survival capsule, which was clamped to a ledge with steel pins. "We have asked the Government to stop oil exploration in the Atlantic Frontier region and when they do they will have their rock back," a Greenpeace spokesman said.

The Government, however, was unconcerned, and rather puzzled, by the protest. A Foreign Office spokeswoman said: "Rockall is part of the UK. My understanding is that people are free to move around the UK as they wish. They can stay there as long as

they like." The Department of Trade and Industry was similarly untroubled. "Anyone can stay on Rockall — if they really want to," a spokesman said.

The adventurer Tom McClean, who spent 40 days there in 1985 to raise money for charity, said: "I can't see any sense in what they are doing. I suppose they will sit there and the oilmen will just carry on. But good luck to them."

Mr McClean, who has rowed the Atlantic, said that leisure activities were limited because the rock faces made it difficult to walk about and there was a danger of being washed away by high seas. The 65ft-high rock is regularly lashed by 90ft storm waves. But Mr McClean said it was pleasant to chat to fishermen by radio.

The Greenpeace trio are Al, 32, from Newhaven, Sussex, Peter, 40, from Australia, and Meike, 31, a German woman. No surnames have been given. Al and Meike are veterans of the successful Greenpeace protest against the dumping of the Brent Spar oil platform in the Atlantic in 1995. The *Alvheim*, will stay in the area to deliver supplies. It is captained by John Castle, veteran of the Brent Spar.

The survival capsule is equipped with solar- and wind-powered computing and communications equipment. But lavatory facilities will be distinctly low-tech: "bucket and chuck it," a Greenpeace spokesman explained.

The aim of the protest is to draw attention to global warming caused by fossil fuels. Greenpeace claims that more than 30 oil companies are prospecting in the Atlantic

Frontier area despite scientific evidence that the burning of existing oil supplies will have a grave effect on the climate. Al said: "No one has the right to unleash this oil onto our threatened climate."

The oil industry dismissed the protest for "trivialising the issues" surrounding the need for gradual change to renewable energy sources. Andrew Searle, of the UK Offshore Operators Association, said

the protesters were making unrealistic demands that the fossil fuel industry be "shut down tomorrow". He said that would jeopardise 300,000 jobs in the UK and was, in effect, asking people to "move back to the Stone Age".

Greenpeace has threatened to take the Government to the High Court over its alleged failure to apply European law to protect cold-water coral in

the Atlantic. It wants licences for oil and gas exploration suspended.

BP and Shell are expected to start production at the Foinaven oilfield, 100 miles west of Shetland, later this year. The £550 million development, the first in the Atlantic Frontier, will produce up to 95,000 barrels of oil a day. A BP spokesman said the Atlantic oil would replace declining

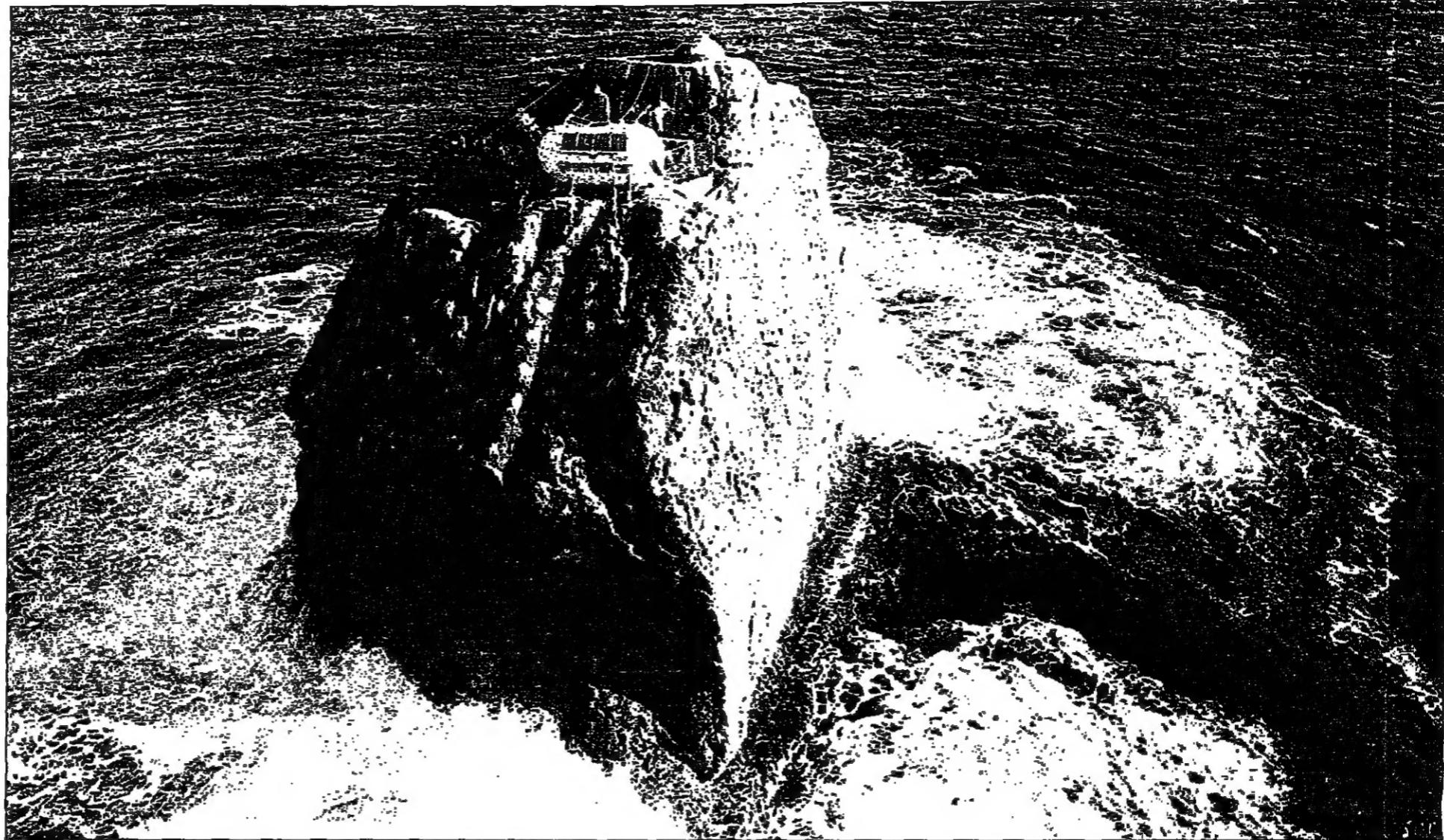
production in the North Sea.

Only one protester remained at the site of Manchester Airport's planned second runway yesterday after the veteran campaigner Muppet Dave — Dave Howarth, 30 — emerged from his tunnel. He had spent 12 days underground in the tunnel known as the Cakehole.

Jeff Gazzard, a local campaigner, said: "He feels he has

made his point. The undersheriff's men did not get to him, he decided to come up voluntarily."

The remaining demonstrator, Matt, has retreated to a split-level part of the tunnel on the site near Sybil, Cheshire. He is about 50ft from the surface, behind eight locked metal doors, and is believed to have enough food to last about two weeks.



Between a rock and a hard place: the Greenpeace activists' survival capsule on Rockall has high-tech computing and communications equipment but no lavatory facilities

Gulf War general rallies volunteer force in defence of the countryside

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

THE commander of British forces during the Gulf War, Sir Peter de la Billière, gave warning yesterday of the irreparably damaging encroachment on the countryside by intensive agriculture

and development. The retired general, who now farms near the Welsh border, said: "Once the countryside has been browned or built over it has been lost for ever. In terms of erosion of the countryside we

are not far from a national emergency."

He was speaking at the launch in London of a campaign by the Council for the Protection of Rural England to rally the public behind the defence of the country's remaining green spaces. Farming could be profitable without damaging wildlife habitats if it was done sensitively. Sir Peter said: "The land must not be exploited for selfish commercial reasons at the expense of the countryside."

The council's countryside contract sets out the group's views on various issues affecting rural life and the appearance of the landscape, with particular emphasis on destructive farming practices and the spread of housing

and roads. Over the next two years, people attending farm shows and other events will be invited by the council's representatives to sign the contract. The signatures will be handed to the Government in the form of a national petition. Copies of the contract can also be obtained free by telephoning 0800 163680.

Celebrities who have already put their names to the contract include most of the cast of *The Archers*: Sir John Gielgud; Lord Lawson of Blaby, the former Chancellor; Auberon Waugh, the writer; Elton John; and Sir John Harvey-Jones, the former chairman of ICI.

Jonathan Dimbleby, the broadcaster, who is president of the council, said: "For the first time the contract pro-

vides a means of galvanising mass support for the protection of rural England and of bringing popular pressure to bear on decision-makers in Parliament, local authorities

and other official bodies." A poll conducted for the council last month by Research Surveys of Great Britain found that 80 per cent of people were worried about

the sort of countryside the next generation would inherit, while 69 per cent wanted to stop housing and road schemes which damaged the environment. The contract

emphasises official projections that 4.4 million homes will need to be built by 2010, which could mean the urbanisation of an area of countryside equivalent to Greater London, and that, on present trends, road traffic in rural areas will more than double by 2025.

The contract commits signatories to support policies that would reduce traffic levels by 10 per cent by 2010, would give priority to using spare land in existing towns for new housing and that would impose tighter controls on out-of-town shopping centres. The contract also calls for subsidies paid to farmers under the common agricultural policy to be switched from supporting food production towards encouraging landscape management and conservation of wildlife habitats.



Jonathan Dimbleby and Sir Peter de la Billière at the launch of the campaign yesterday

The building site for your ideal PC.

www.dell.com/uk



Browse, build and buy your perfect Dell system. Best experienced with Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0, the Dell website is open now. So get online and check out Dell Dimension™ Latitude® and PowerEdge® systems now.



Dell and the Dell logo are registered trademarks of Dell Computer Corporation. The Intel Inside logo and Pentium® are registered trademarks and MMX™ is a trademark of Intel Corporation. Dell PC products are based on Intel Pentium Pro and Pentium II Processor. Microsoft is a registered trademark of the Microsoft Corporation. Phone 01344 724699 for more information. Dell Products Ltd, Milbanke House, Western Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1BD.

DELL

pollution

THE TIMES THURSDAY JUNE 12 1997

House prices soar in London and the shires

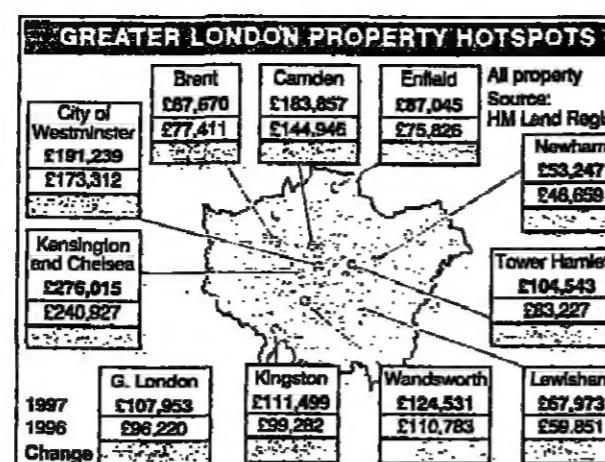
By KATHRYN KNIGHT
AND KATHERINE BERGEN

PROPERTY prices rose by more than 8 per cent nationally over the past year, with prices doubling in some parts of London.

The predicted recovery in the housing market reached almost every corner of England and Wales, although the South East, Leicestershire, Dorset and Northumberland experienced particularly dramatic rises according to figures from the Land Registry, a government department. At the same time, the number of houses and flats for sale fell.

Some of the biggest price rises across the country were for new flats and maisonettes, with prices rising by an average 21.95 per cent to £86,996, suggesting a resurgence of first-time buyers.

The figures, for only England and Wales, compare the January-to-March period this year with the corresponding period last year. They are broadly in line with those predicted by leading lenders, such as Halifax and Nationwide. The average house price in England and Wales was



£72,900, up 8.6 per cent from £67,097.

The figures show that only three areas out of 45 – the Isle of Wight, Cumbria and North Yorkshire – suffered price falls, and these amounted to only a few hundred pounds difference on last year. In the Isle of Wight the average cost of a home fell by about £334.

In North Yorkshire and Cumbria the falls were less than £300.

Prices across London boomed across by 12.2 per cent, taking the average price in the

capital from £96,000 to £108,000. In Camden a detached house costing an average of £375,000 early last year rose to about £640,000.

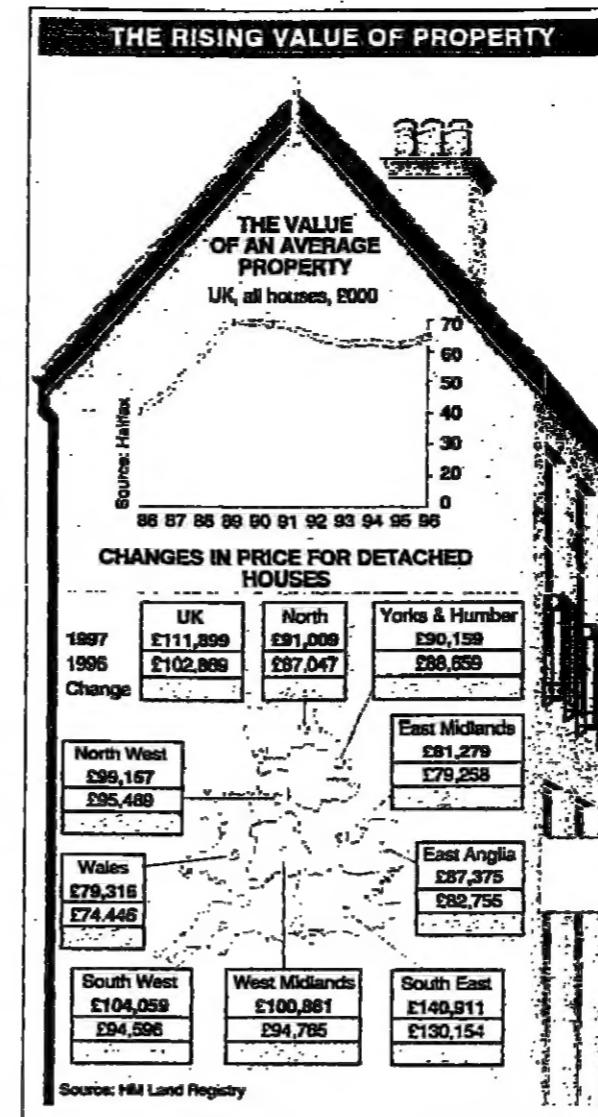
In Leicestershire prices rose by 18.9 per cent, from £49,794 to £59,220, and in Dorset by 17.9 per cent from £65,391 to £77,148. Northumberland experienced an average rise of 10 per cent. Other areas with larger-than-average price rises included Northamptonshire and Surrey.

James Barty, the chief UK economist for Deutsche Mor-

gan Grenfell, said he believed that prices would stabilise as more people felt confident about putting their properties on the market. "People got out of the habit of moving house on a regular basis after the 1980s, so now that demand has picked up the supply isn't there, which pushes prices up even more," he said. "Hopefully, though, as the market recovers, more people will be tempted to move and open up the market."

But he gave a warning that prices were in danger of spiralling out of control, particularly in the South East. "The market is very buoyant and there is a danger that, when recovery gets a degree of momentum behind it, it is difficult to stop."

However, Gary Marsh, for Halifax Property Services, said: "It's what you would expect at this stage of recovery, and it's sustainable growth." He added that the "frothiness" of the London market would not spread nationally because income growth and economic recovery were not out of control. "So we are seeing a steady and sustainable recovery in the housing market."



Princess briefed by Cook prior to landmine visit

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

DIANA, Princess of Wales, was briefed yesterday by Robert Cook, the Foreign Secretary, and Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, before her trip to Washington next week to raise funds for the victims of landmines.

The Princess had asked for a meeting so she could be updated on Anglo-American issues, but the occasion offered her the chance to raise concerns about civilian casualties caused by anti-personnel landmines – 24,000 people are killed or maimed each year. When the Princess visited Angola with the Red Cross in January, she was criticised by some Conservatives for raising the issue of landmines. At the time, the Princess made clear that her concerns were humanitarian, not political.

Since taking office last month, Mr Cook has ordered a complete ban on any British trade in landmines and announced a moratorium on their operational use by British forces and the destruction of all British stocks by 2005. The Princess is clearly delighted.

Plaice go to great lengths to lay eggs

By NIGEL HAWKES

THE plaice leads a surprisingly adventurous life, travelling much further afield than scientists believed.

Tagging experiments by fishery scientists at Lowestoft, Suffolk, have shown that one fish travelled more than 550 miles in 56 days before being caught close to where it had been released. The fish carried small electronic sensors capable of storing data such as depth and temperature.

Dr Geoff Arnold, of the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science at Lowestoft, said: "It was known that they moved, but nobody had any idea how fast. These results show they move ten times faster than we thought. They also tell us a lot about spawning behaviour and that could have implications for protecting stocks."

Dr Arnold and Dr Julian Metcalfe attached tags to 303 female plaice between December 1993 and February this year. The fish had been caught by a trawler and allowed to recover in the aquarium at Lowestoft before being released in the same area.

So far, 37 of the tags have been returned by commercial fishermen, who get a £25 reward. The data shows the fish catch a ride on the tide going the right way, swimming about twice as fast as the current, before sinking to the bottom when it turns.

Dr Arnold reports in *Nature* that the main purpose is to lay eggs in the right place. "Plaice eggs float free, so are carried along by drift. The fish lay them in a location chosen so that drift carries the eggs towards the nursery grounds where the young fish develop."

NEWS IN BRIEF
Another jail sentence for singer

The soul singer Mark Morrison, who is serving a three-month jail sentence for threatening a police officer with a stun gun, was yesterday given a further 14 days to run concurrently, after he admitted smashing a photographer's camera. Morrison, 25, appearing at Marylebone Magistrates' Court in central London, pleaded guilty to criminal damage.

Girl discharged

A 12-year-old girl who spent six days on remand in an adult prison on the Isle of Man was given a 12-month conditional discharge after admitting assault and criminal damage. She has returned to a children's home.

Drug 'shop'

A man who fortified his home and used it as a "shop" where he sold cocaine and heroin was jailed for 5½ years at Winchester Crown Court. Richard Lovell, 47, of Bristol, admitted conspiracy to supply cocaine and heroin.

Hemp on sale

Hemp, an energy drink containing cannabis-plant extracts, went on sale for the first time in Britain at Selfridges, the London department store, after Home Office tests to ensure that it had no narcotic substances.

Train honour

The widow of the entertainer Roy Castle unveiled a locomotive at Waterloo station in London and was surprised to find that it had been named in her honour. She had expected the Fiona Castle to be named *The Tour of Hope*.

BROADCASTING STANDARDS COMMISSION

Complaint from Mr Turnbull, The Associated Examining Board and the Southern Examining Group - Summary of Adjudication

The Broadcasting Complaints Commission (now the Broadcasting Standards Commission) have largely upheld a complaint against a programme in Channel 4's *Disputes* series entitled "Making the Grade". The programme, which was broadcast on 11 October 1993, considered the alleged lowering of examination standards in response to government policy and competition between the examination boards. The complaint of unfair and unjust treatment was brought by Mr Turnbull, The Associated Examining Board (AEB) and its subsidiary, the Southern Examining Group (SEG). Mr Turnbull, Director of Public Relations for The AEB and the SEG, had contributed to the programme by giving an interview.

The Commission found that some unfairness arose because the programme-makers had not disclosed for Turnbull in advance the identity of the other contributors to the programme. They considered that the programme might well have left viewers with an unfair impression that the problems of grade inflation and consistency between exam boards' decisions claimed by one of the programme's contributors were linked specifically to his experience as an AEB/SEG senior examiner. They found some unfairness in the programme's "reconstruction" of an awarding meeting, which gave the impression of a secretive, if not sleazy, gathering, which the Commission found hard to believe could be typical of such a meeting. They also found some unfairness in the way the programme was edited so as to imply that Mr Turnbull had acknowledged that financial competition was built into the system. The programme had wrongly and unfairly implied that Mr Turnbull did not attend awarding meetings as a matter of course.

The Commission had found that the programme had not been unfair in some of the ways alleged, such as its selection of statistical evidence, but they did find that the theme of the programme – deliberate and secretive grade-rigging by examination boards – was at best an exaggeration and, accordingly, unfair.

You can get a copy of the full adjudication by writing to the Broadcasting Standards Commission, 7 The Sanctuary, London SW1P 3LS.

FREE
MINUTE
WARNING

Up to 450 free minutes if you sign up for an 0800 number now.

Did you know that businesses using an 0800 number can pull in up to 60% more calls than those that don't?

Most people would think that was incentive enough. But we're not most people.

When you apply for a BT Freefone 0800 number, you'll get up to 450 minutes free every month for three months.

All you have to do is apply before 22nd July 1997 and connect by 31st August 1997. Call BT on Freefone 0800 800 800 for

details of the Free Minutes Offer. And hurry. The countdown has started.



Why not change the way we work?

OFFER IS FOR THREE MONTHS AND STARTS FROM THE FIRST DAY OF THE MONTH FOLLOWING CONNECTION.

We'd like to see more eyesores like this around the country.

The average open-cast stone slate quarry is not a pretty sight.

But in our view, it's a sight more attractive than the concrete roof tile.

Over the past several decades, England's traditional roofscapes have been slowly but surely disappearing.

All over the country, original stone slate roofs have been replaced by modern, mass-produced substitutes.

The trouble is, they are no substitute for the real thing.

Moulded concrete tiles, by their very nature, have a uniformity of size and shape that is the antithesis of the hand-cut stone slate.

In colour, texture and patination, they bear little or no relation to the natural limestone and sandstone they attempt to mimic.

And they certainly don't last as long. (Many stone slate roofs are still going strong after 300 years.)

But of course, they are cheaper.

It is much easier to extrude pre-formed concrete tiles than it is to extract stone slates from the ground.

As a consequence, local stone slate quarries have all but disappeared.

At English Heritage, we believe it's high time we revived the stone slate roofing industry in this country.

Not by opening new quarries, but by re-opening old ones.

Despite our assertion above, stone slate



A stone slate quarry. Prettier than a concrete roof tile.

quarries are relatively small blemishes on the landscape.

Indeed, most of them are remote from towns and villages and therefore only visible to people passing through.

Opening up these quarries would also open up much needed local employment opportunities.

Inevitably, as the industry has declined, so has the number of craftspeople skilled in the production and use of stone slates.

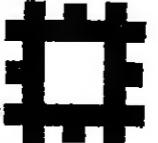
Which is why English Heritage is working to make stone slate making and laying part

of the curriculum for National Vocational Qualifications.

A two-year research study in the Derbyshire Peak District has convinced us that the revival of the stone slate industry could be a viable proposition once again.

In time, maybe we will be able to restore and preserve the distinctive natural beauty of England's roofscapes.

Now that would be a sight for sore eyes.



ENGLISH HERITAGE

JULY 10 1997

THE TIMES THURSDAY JUNE 12 1997

THE WHITE HALL REVOLUTION

The Home Office

to bring a fresh approach to Whitehall
and the big departments of state

Reformer Straw is on parole

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

JACK STRAW is facing the consequences of having spent months ensuring there was a hair's breadth between his policies and those of Michael Howard. He cannot overturn key parts of the Tory legacy for fear of leaving Labour open to the charge that it's tough on law and order but soft.

More than any other minister, the Home Secretary is at the mercy of events. Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, who twice held the office for Labour, decided the climate in the department as "sudden violent storms out of a clear sky".

The storms can come from anywhere in a department whose responsibilities range from the exhumation of bodies of firearms, the Channel Islands and royalty.

Qualities that can inflict major political damage include application of the six-monthly case figures (which are used daily to determine whether the Government is winning its law and order battle); a sudden intrusion into one of the royal residences; and a plot not.

One of Mr Straw's first decisions was that there would be no executive release of prisoners from the overcrowded jails. Yet the forecast surge in the prison population, the need for new jails and the financial consequences are a



The ministry's civil servants testify to a more humane regime under Jack Straw

timebomb beneath the seat of government.

That course has been set by his predecessor's policies, and until Mr Straw can overhaul community sentences and convince the public that they are a real punishment, he will have to live with a huge jail population.

Mr Straw's own plans for the criminal justice system were worked out in painstaking detail while in opposition and bear the influence of Labour's core support on the

estates where residents demanded action against such anti-social behaviour as youths roaming the streets, rowdy neighbours and truanting children.

Disillusioned with the culture of excusing criminality and bad behaviour, he makes no apologies for talking about punishment and demanding better behaviour and greater individual responsibility. He arrived at the Home Office with detailed proposals to reform the youth justice sys-

tem and to deal with parental irresponsibility.

But it will need at least 18 months to put the legislation through Parliament and perhaps a further 18 months to be fully operational. Even then it will be difficult to provide supervision of young children whose chaotic backgrounds often go back generations.

In the meantime, Mr Straw has set out to improve senior Home Office management and to end the culture of suspicion and blame that

emerged under his predecessor. One official said: "It is refreshing to work with people who actually appear to be members of the human race and who seem to like each other." Mr Straw's willingness to exchange gossip and talk with officials has been much commented upon, as was his insistence at an early meeting with senior mandarins that they be less deferential towards him.

He and his ministers have gone out of their way to call in the penal pressure groups who feel that they have been cut in the cold for years. These activists have been delighted at the access and the willingness of ministers to listen attentively to their arguments.

Key figures from the penal reform lobby are to be chosen for a task force that will advise how the youth justice system can be changed. It will be chaired by Norman Warner. Mr Straw's special policy adviser, but the penal reform groups will approve the inclusion of Paul Cavendish, of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, and Cedric Fulwood, chief probation officer of Greater Manchester.

The pressure groups should beware. A penal reformer said: "The thing about this group of ministers is that, like the rest of new Labour, they are good at preaching openness, but access is not to be mistaken for influence."

The In-Tray

PRISON population rising by 200 a week with latest projections suggesting increase from 60,000 to 4,500 by 2005. This is without estimated 10-12,000 rise caused by minimum three-year sentences for repeat domestic burglars and trapping automatic early release. The Prison Service is searching for new jails in the face of mounting public opposition. Straw is opposed to private prisons as there is no public money to build them. He is investigating

whether private sector would build jails and maintain them, with the state managing them.

- Mrs Hindley's challenge to former Home Secretary's rule that she must stay in jail for all her life. Twenty-three other offenders, including IRA terrorists, mass murderers Dene Nielsen and Donald Nilsen, the Black Panther, have also been given natural life.

- Sir David Ramsbotham, chief Inspector of Prisons, pressing for his remit to cover the Prison Service and believes that Mr Straw is more sympathetic to his ambitions than the previous Home Office regime.

- Television in cells. The former

administration ducked taking a decision to order their removal.

- Pressure to relax tough restrictions on early release and home leave for prisoners.

- Future of secure training orders and centres for persistent teenage runaways aged 12-14. Contract for one of five centres signed. Will Straw go ahead with the other four, buy out the contract signed with Group 4 or try to use the centre as part of secure accommodation network for youngsters? The orders look unlikely to come into operation.

- New chairman of the Tote to

replace Lord Wyatt of Weeford. New Chairman of the Family Board to replace Lord Belstead, former Tory junior Home Office Minister.

- Future of proposed supermax prison for most dangerous and serious offenders.

- Pressure mounting for regulation of the private security industry.

- Reform of the police service pension system because of the huge burden being placed on forces. By the end of the century it is estimated that police forces nationally will have an annual bill of £1 billion for pension contributions. The service has no fund but meets pensions from annual budgets.

POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT 11

MINISTRY TEAM



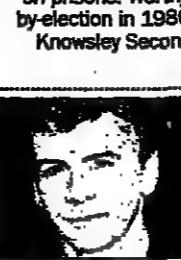
JACK STRAW: Secretary of State for Home Department. Punctilious, smart 49-year-old who joined the Labour Party aged 15. First made headlines in 1969 when elected president of the National Union of Students. Almost deaf in right ear. Educated Brentwood School, Essex, Leeds University, and Inns of Court Law School. Barrister Inner Temple 1972-1974, Islington councillor, political adviser to Barbara Castle 1974-1976. In 1979 inherited Castle's Blackburn seat. Jogger and cooks a mean pudding, particularly of the public school variety such as spotted dick.



ALUN MICHAEL: Minister of State. Ambitious and sharp North Welshman succeeded James Callaghan in Cardiff South and Penarth in 1987 after a lengthy apprenticeship in South Wales local politics. Opposition whip 1987-1988, spokesman on Welsh affairs 1988-1992 and home affairs 1992-1997. Tipped as a future Cabinet minister, perhaps as Secretary of State for Wales. Aged 53.



JOYCE QUINN: Minister of State. Quiet but highly intelligent 52-year-old Tynesider who was the surprise choice as Prisons Minister when all had expected her to be Minister for Europe. MP for Gateshead East 1987-1997; Gateshead East-Washington West 1997-. MEP Tyne and Wear 1979-1989.



GEORGE HOWARTH: Parliamentary Under-Secretary. Took a demotion when Blair formed his Government as he had been Shadow Prisons Minister in opposition. His new role is to "support" Ms Quinn on prisons. Worthy 49-year-old Liverpudlian who won Knowsley North at a by-election in 1986 after the resignation of Robert Kilroy-Silk. Educated at Knowsley Secondary School, Kirby College of FE, Liverpool Polytechnic.



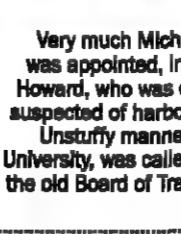
MIKE O'BRIEN: Parliamentary Under-Secretary. Another surprise Home Office appointment as Mr O'Brien, 42, MP for Warwickshire North, had been part of Gordon Brown's Treasury team. Educated at Worcester Technical College and North Staffordshire Polytechnic, he was a law lecturer and solicitor before entering the Commons in 1992.



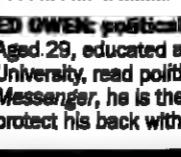
NORMAN WARNER: special policy adviser. He was one of the trio who were Barbara Castle's "three musketeers" when she was Secretary of State for Social Services in Wilson's governments. The others were a young Jack Straw, her political adviser, and Janet Anderson, her constituency secretary, now Labour MP for Rossendale and Darwen. Mr Warner, a civil servant, was her principal private secretary and became close friends with Mr Straw. In February last year he rejoined Mr Straw as an adviser. Invaluable because he knew his way around Whitehall. At 56, he is the oldest special adviser. Educated at Dulwich College and the University of California, Berkeley, he began his Whitehall career at the Department of Health in 1959 and finally left government in 1985 to become director of social services in Kent.



LOD WILLIAMS OF MOSTYN: Parliamentary Under-Secretary. Made a working peer by Neil Kinnock, Gareth Williams, 55, is a former chairman of the Bar Council. Like his ministerial colleague Alun Michael, he is a North Welshman. Educated at Rhyl Grammar School and Queen's College, Cambridge, he is a former leader of the Wales and Chester Circuit.



RICHARD WILSON: Permanent Secretary. Very much Michael Howard's choice as the man at the top in 1994. He was appointed, in spite of strong resistance by the Cabinet Secretary, by Howard, who was determined to change the culture of a department long suspected of harbouring a liberal collective view on criminal justice policy. Unstuffy manner. Aged 55, educated at Radley College and Cambridge University, was called to the Bar before beginning his civil service career at the old Board of Trade. Wife is daughter of the late Sir Frank Lee, who was joint permanent secretary at the Treasury 1960-1962.



ED OWEN: political adviser. Aged 29, educated at Egglecliff comprehensive school, Stockton on Tees and Manchester University, read politics. Worked for Jack Straw since 1993. Formerly a journalist on the Stockport Messenger, he is there to spin to the lobby, particularly the key tabloids, on behalf of Straw and protect his back within the parliamentary party.

LAURA ASHLEY

15%
OFF

ALL
UPHOLSTERED
FURNITURE

FINAL
10 DAYS!

Offer ends

Sunday 22nd June 1997

BUY NOW PAY 1998

0% APR, Interest Free Credit
on purchases over £500

For your nearest Laura Ashley store
call 0990 622116

Christian Dior



Fahrenheit
PARIS
PARIS
PARIS

The making of William Hague



The young pretender: William Hague at three and as a schoolboy of eight. At 16 his performance at the Tory conference caught the eye of Margaret Thatcher. Today, at 36, he hopes to follow in her footsteps

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, PAUL WILKINSON AND JAMES LANDALE

WILLIAM HAGUE'S early enthusiasm for politics was matched by a "precocious knowledge of malt whisky" and wide popularity earned by a reputation for fun and pranks. Despite reading parliamentary reports at 15 and captaining the 1977 Conservative party conference with a Thatcherite speech at 16, the Tory leadership challenger led a normal teenage life according to friends and family.

He was born in March 1961 at Rotherham Hospital. His parents, Nigel and Stella Hague, lived in a large detached house in the village of Greasbrough, in the South Yorkshire coalfield. His father ran the long-established family business, Hague's Pop Factory.

He has three elder sisters, Jane, Veronica and Sally. "It was sometimes like he had four mothers," his mother said. "He came six years after my youngest daughter, Sally, and they were always putting him in his place."

He went first to Greasbrough Primary School where he developed a passion for history and model soldiers. "He would relight the great battles like Waterloo over the

carpet and woe betide me if I moved a piece," Mrs Hague said.

When he was 11, he won a rare boarding scholarship to Ripon Grammar School. "He was only there for a term," Mrs Hague said. "There were only about four other boys of his age who were boarders and I think, for the first and last time in his life, he was bored. We sent him to the Wath-upon-Dearne comprehensive where he seemed much happier." There he befriended many miners' children, and gained popularity with pranks such as getting a steward of the climbing club to put a friend's satchel on the school roof.

He achieved A grades in all his O levels except Greek, in which he got a B. "He went around telling everybody he was hopeless," said Robert Godber, a former Tory candidate who taught A-level politics. Mr Godber lent the boy recordings of the speeches of Winston Churchill, which his pupil learnt by heart.

He memorised the name and constituency of every MP but his friends were unimpressed. David Rusby, his best friend at school, said: "If he

did start on politics we used to thump him and tell him to shut up and talk about something more interesting."

Mr Hague was the star of the school debating society, best remembered for a "balloon debate" when he took the role of Harold Wilson, arriving dressed in a Gannex raincoat, complete with pipe and a dog on a lead.

At 13, Mr Hague was a member of the Young Conservatives and put a poster of Margaret Thatcher on his bedroom wall. At 15 he had Hansard sent to his home. His godfather, Jack Walley, said:

"All he ever wanted to do was go into politics. You would be more likely to find him with his head in Hansard than the Dandy."

Mr Hague said: "We had always voted Conservative, but had no other interest beyond that. Then, in 1974 he watched the election coverage on the television. It was the battle between Heath and Wilson. F. became fascinated and watched all the debates and read about all the issues. When he was about 15 I took him to the House of Commons with a friend to watch Harold Wilson in a debate."

Callaghan's promised land, which must surely rank as the most abhorred and miserable land that has ever been promised to the people of a nation state. It's all right for you, half of you won't be here in 30 or 40 years time. But I will be and I want to be free.

Party conference, Oct 1977 (aged 16)

The SDP will degenerate into the homosexual wing of the Liberal Party.

Oxford Union Society, 1981

Gladstone would speak for four hours and thousands would listen attentively. Now if a politician speaks for 45 minutes it is regarded as too long.

Now 1983

On politics

The people don't want to go to

One of the lessons of the past few years

THE WIT AND WISDOM OF WILLIAM HAGUE

BY MARK HENDERSON

is that it is easier to unite the party behind a clear position than a constantly shifting fudge.

May 1997

Our policy would be to oppose monetarism on sovereignty grounds.

May 1997

Education

If I had kids I'd send them to the local comprehensive. People who go private are wasting their money.

July 1996

The constitution

It is hard to defend an assembly where most members sit through privilege or accident of birth.

Party conference, 1980

Labour's plans for devolution are a broadcast to which no self-respecting dog would put its name.

Party conference, 1986

Society

Bring back hanging.

Richmond by-election, Feb 1989

Tax

Remember... only the Conservatives can keep taxes down.

Brecon address, 1982

Election defeat

The free and prosperous society that we had championed became tainted with the image of sleaze, greed, self-indulgence and division.

May 1997

tious people, he was entirely relaxed, very friendly. There was not a scintilla of arrogance."

After leaving Oxford, Mr Hague collected an MB at Insead business school in France, spent a year as a self-trainee before moving to McKinsey's where he stood until entering Parliament.

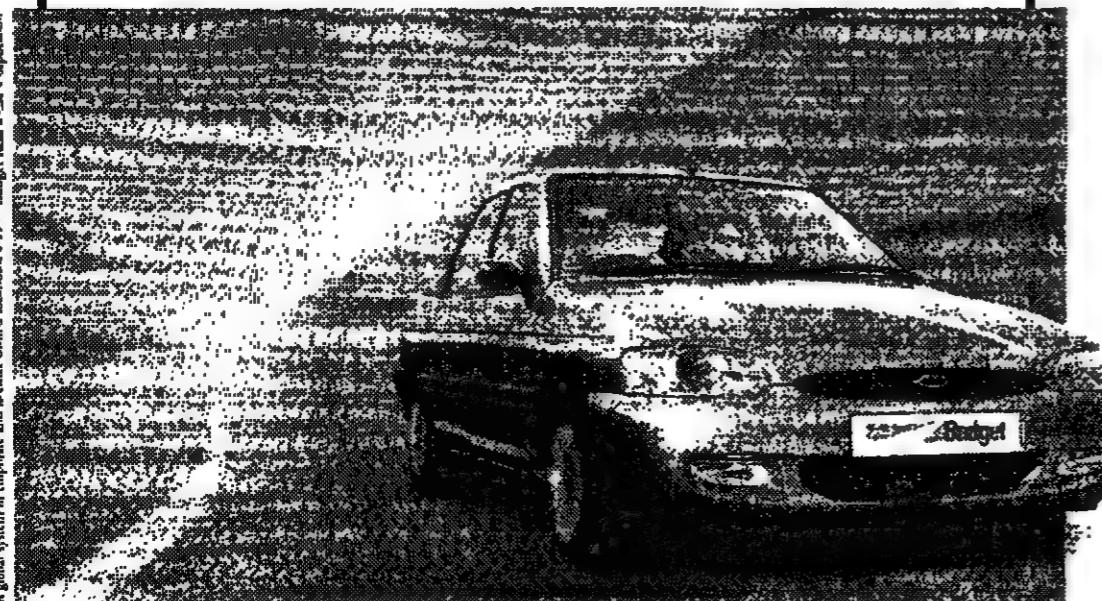
After standing for his home town of Wentworth, a safe Labour seat in 1987, he secured the Yorkshire seat of Richmond in 1989 in a by-election won by the Tories. John Major swiftly appointed him parliamentary private secretary to the Chancellor, Norman Lamont, from 1990 to 1993. He then became a junior Social Security Minister and later replaced Sir Nicholas Scott as Minister for the Disabled.

In 1995, at the age of 30, he became Welsh Secretary, the youngest Tory Cabinet minister this century. Mr Major considered him one of the outstanding middle-ranking ministers but had no intention of promoting him to the Cabinet so soon, the vacancy provided by John Redwood's resignation gave Mr Hague a quick route to the Cabinet table.

For much of his political career, Mr Hague has had to contend with rumours that he is not the marrying kind. This is despite having had several girlfriends. When asked in a recent newspaper interview if he were homosexual, Mr Hague said "no" amid gales of laughter. He is engaged to Fiona Jenkins, 29, his former private secretary at the Welsh Office.

Mr Newmark said there were "complete cranks" who had never heard such dry wit. I have known all his girlfriends since he was 18.

AIRCONOMICAL.



Hire An Escort 1.6 Si With Aircon.
Just £29.95* A Day.

Renting a car with Aircon has always been a tough economic proposition. But this spring and summer, you can really afford to chill out with an Escort 1.6 Si from Budget. Everything about this car is cool: front and rear spoilers, white sports dials and, of course, Air Conditioning. All for £29.95 a day. Car hire has never been so Airconomical!

Call Budget Central Reservations **Budget**
on 0541 565656
or call your local travel agent. Car and Van Rental

*Rate includes CDW, VAT and unlimited mileage and excludes other voluntary insurance, airport surcharges, and petrol. Valid until 15th July 1997. Offer cannot be combined with any other promotional discounts or special rates. Special rental terms and conditions apply. Offer available at UK participating Budget locations subject to availability. Promoter: Budget Rent a Car International Inc, 47 Marlowes, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire HP1 1DX.

Contenders concentrate on the vital statistics

BY PHILIP WEBSTER

WILLIAM HAGUE, Kenneth Clarke and John Redwood began the second stage of their lengthy charm offensive on Tory MPs within minutes of Tuesday's first-round result being declared.

Their first objective in the second ballot next Tuesday is to be certain of reaching the final run-off between the top two candidates two days later. The magic figure for that is 55.

On paper Mr Clarke has the easiest task, having scored 49 in the first round. The former minister John Taylor, who voted for Michael Howard in the first round, and Michael Fabricant, who voted for John Redwood, have joined the Clarke camp and others are said to have pledged their second preferences. His team is already working on the ultimate target: the 83 votes needed to win the run-off.

Mr Hague, who scored 41, needs a further 14 to make the final round. Mr Howard and Mr Lilley are his most prominent new recruits; Richard Spring has also moved from Mr Lilley and others are poised to go over.

Most fascinating of all is Mr Redwood. With 27 votes on the first ballot he needs a further 28 to progress beyond next Tuesday. But the total of Lilley-Howard votes to be redistributed is 47, almost all of them from the Right.

Three known recruits are Desmond Swayne and Sir Richard Body, who voted for Mr Howard, and John Bercow, who voted for Mr Lilley. At his press conference yesterday Mr Redwood was brimming with optimism.

£100,000 OF
LIFE INSURANCE
FROM £6.80
A MONTH

It only costs a little to leave them a lot

A Zurich Municipal Term Assurance Policy can provide £100,000 for your family if you die. And if you work in the public sector, you get a 15% discount which means you could pay a monthly premium of just £9.82*. It's easy, a phone call can secure immediate cover in a few minutes.

Call us now to find out more. One day, your family might be very glad you did.

LIFE INSURANCE
0800 147 147

Open: 9am-8pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat
For your security, all telephone calls on the above number will be recorded and randomly monitored.
PLEASE QUOTE REF: LTM1206

ZURICH

MUNICIPAL

Focusing on the Public Sector

*Premium of £9.82 includes public sector discount. Example given is a 10-year level term assurance policy for a married, non-smoker, 35-year-old female, local authority administrator, whose gross annual income is subject to a maximum of £25,000. Premiums are dependent on a number of factors and in particular are higher for males, smokers and older ages.

Zurich Municipal is a trading name of Zurich Life Assurance Company Limited, which is regulated by the Prudential Regulation Authority, for life assurance and investment products. Zurich is a registered trade mark of Zurich Insurance Group. Zurich Municipal markets the life products of Zurich Life Assurance Company Ltd and provides financial services. Zurich Life Assurance Company Ltd is registered in England and Wales under No. 11429, Registered Office: Zurich House, Stamford Road, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire PE1 1HQ.

THE TIMES THURSDAY JUNE 12 1997



Evening brings a call to prayers at a mosque in Qom, one of Iran's holiest cities

Taleban loses last town in northeast

FROM REUTER
IN PUL-I-KHUMRI,
AFGHANISTAN

PUL-I-KHUMRI, the last important Taleban-held town in northeastern Afghanistan, fell to opposition forces yesterday, witnesses said.

They said opposition forces moved into Pul-i-Khumri, 112 miles southeast of Mazar-i-Sharif, at about 3am after the purist Islamic militia evacuated the town and headed for Baghlan, 19 miles to the north. The Taleban had held Pul-i-Khumri for two weeks after Taleban column moved north across the Hindu Kush. Soon after they crossed the mountains, opposition forces closed the main road linking Kabul to the north by capturing Jabal-os-Siraj, the southern gateway to the Salang Pass, leaving the Taleban garrison in Pul-i-Khumri surrounded. Sayed Jafar Naderi, an

opposition commander, said that he believed many of the stranded Taleban fighters had fled north towards Baghlan, but he expected Baghlan residents to disarm them and hand them over. "The Baghlanis say they have disarmed 4,000 men," he said.

He added that opposition forces had captured many Taleban prisoners, including 12 men he said were of Pakistani origin. He had no word on what had happened to Amir Khan Mutagi, the Taleban Information Minister, who was leading the force. Pul-i-Khumri was quiet yesterday morning, with few people on the streets. Some shops were open and there was no evidence of continuing fighting. The town's capture almost brings to a close the militia's disastrous foray into their opponents' northern strongholds that began more than two weeks ago.

Red Cross plan to screen aid groups

FROM PETER CAPELLA IN GENEVA

THE International Red Cross is planning a form of quality control for international aid and relief agencies to cope with their booming numbers.

In its annual *World Disasters Report*, published today, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies argues that the move is necessary to convince donors to continue providing funds and to ensure that disaster victims receive aid.

The report says that funding for emergency assistance worldwide dropped from its peak of \$3.4 billion (£2 billion) in 1994 to \$3 billion in 1995. Yet the Red Cross is facing an increasing number of more complex emergencies, such as in Central Africa.

"What you do have is a lot of small organisations coming in very rapidly and often leaving very rapidly, almost like flies around a honeypot. That can create some problems," Peter Walker, director of disaster response at the federation, said. "It's not enough just to have good PR and an Amex card."

A survey last year of 170 humanitarian groups operating in Rwanda found that one third did not appear to exist. The Red Cross believes \$120 million of the \$1.4 billion provided to help needy Rwandans may have disappeared.

AFTER leaving my shoes at the door, I sit cross-legged on the carpeted floor, sipping tea and awaiting the arrival of one of the most influential figures in Iran.

A small group of us have gathered at a prominent theological centre in Qom, one of the nation's holiest cities. All rise when Makarem Shirazi, one of the Islamic republic's seven grand ayatollahs, enters the room. Wearing a white turban and fawn robes, he greets his male guests with a gentle handshake.

He sits on two floral-patterned pillows, a humble throne for the teacher who has spent most of his 70 years in intense pursuit of spiritual understanding. His works have been translated into several languages and are regarded as important for those who want to know more about the intricacies of Islam.

Iran's elected President, Mohammad Khatami, studied theology in Qom, but the ayatollah cannot recall him. There have been so many pupils, he says, his eyes peering from behind thick, black-rimmed glasses.

Regardless of whether the two met in the past, the ayatollah certainly has some lessons for the country's new President about the true meaning of the Constitution. After all, he was one of the men who drafted the document and his interpretation differs greatly from Mr Khatami, who said there was no legal barrier against women standing for the presidency.

Not so, says Ayatollah Shirazi.

Some see Iran's recent presidential election as a popular vote for change. But one of the country's senior spiritual leaders sounds a note of caution over the future, Ross Dunn reports from Qom

"There may be some women in Mr Khatami's Cabinet, but the Constitution does not allow a woman to become a President," he says. "We decided when drafting the Constitution that the men should become Presidents. Even in the United States, it has been proven that men are much better in practice in these roles than women."

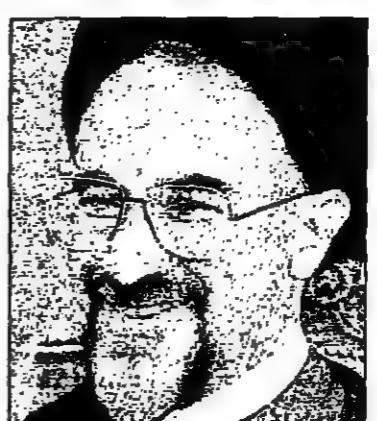
No one mentions that there has never been a woman President in the US. Maybe that was his point.

His views can carry considerable weight in Iran, but not because he has been ordained for the task of spiritual guidance, in the manner of a priest in the Christian faith. Muslim clerics in Iran, at least initially, gain their authority through having followers, not from imposing themselves on the people. Their influence comes from being popular.

They are still referred to in the West as mullahs, a term which appears to have slipped from usage here because it is seen to have negative connotations. In Western thinking, the Muslim clerics represent a real obstacle to the liberalisation of Iranian society and greater openness to the world.

But while Ayatollah Shirazi's opposition to a woman President must suggest as much, his views on other issues are more progressive than one might expect.

For instance, he supports allowing a greater number of tourists to visit Iran, on condition that they respect the country's customs. He also expresses opposition to the actions of minor government officials who take



Khatami: differences over political role for women

On the trail of the Korubo
Amazons... making
peaceful contact with one
of the last undisturbed
tribes on earth

Suzanne Valadon gained
salacious notoriety as the
model and lover of Parisian
painters such as Renoir and
Toulouse-Lautrec,
but she was a fine artist in
her own right

What was it like growing up
the son of a Python...?
Tom Palin and
Michael Palin
share Relative Values



THE TRUTH DIED WITH HER

JonBenét Ramsey took the strange world of tiny-tot beauty pageants by storm. Then the six-year-old baby-doll was found strangled in the basement of her home... The Sunday Times Magazine goes to Colorado to investigate a disturbing murder mystery

DON'T MISS THIS WEEKEND'S 96-PAGE SUNDAY TIMES MAGAZINE

OVERSEAS NEWS 15

Strict lesson for Iran leader

the law into their own hands by entering homes to arrest people suspected of immoral behaviour.

"Interfering with someone's private life is against the law, except for exceptional cases which might be threatening to society. Even then it would need a warrant from the judge," he says.

Many young people and women told foreign journalists that the recent presidential elections had effectively become a referendum for those demanding that the Government should stop interfering in their personal and social lives. Many wanted access to a wider range of books and films and more freedom to meet members of the opposite sex in public.

Considerable hope has been placed on Mr Khatami to start loosening the bonds and easing censorship.

But Ayatollah Shirazi rejects the notion that most young people and women voted for Mr Khatami as a protest against the order established by the Islamic revolution in 1979. He agrees, however, that there is a need to listen to the concerns of the younger generation.

"No doubt the participants had different motivations. Probably some were against the system, but we believe this is not true for the majority of them. I believe this election had different messages for us. One of them is the problems young people have in their lives, and we have to start solving those problems."

Allied Carpets Holds Interest Rates

0%
apr*

Only 10% deposit now
**Nothing to pay
Until 1998!**

WITH UP TO 3 YEARS 0% APR INTEREST FREE CREDIT*

Sale

HALF PRICE CARPETS
AND 10% OFF VINYL AND WOOD STYLE FLOORINGS.

FREE UNDERLAY

With all Axminsters and Wiltons £23.91m² (£19.99 sq.yd) and over*

Allied CARPETS

35 Years of Inspirational Choices for your Home

For your nearest Allied Carpets ring FREEPAGES 0800 192 192

*Example Purchase price £1000, 10% Deposit £100. Dealer payments until January 1998. Balance £900, payable by 23 direct debit payments of £31.03 per month or 36 direct debit payments of £25 per month starting from date of purchase. Total price on credit £1000, 0% APR. The number of months by which payments are delayed counts towards the credit period. All credit offers subject to status. Wilton quotations from Allied Carpets, Carpetline BRC 010 0 free Royal Supreme Underlay, £4.77 m² (£3.99 sq.yd) on all Axminsters and Wiltons over £23.91 m² (£19.99 sq.yd). Free offer underlay can not be used in conjunction with any other promotional offer, voucher or discount.

Australia's stolen children were 'genocide' victims

THE forcible removal of Aboriginal children from their parents amounted to genocide, the judge who headed a commission into the "stolen generation" said.

The programme, which lasted from 1918 to the 1960s, fit the legal definition of genocide. Sir Ronald Wilson, President of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission, said Australia would never be at peace with itself until it formally apologised for this crime.

"How can we celebrate our triumphs — Anzac Day or the Olympics — where there is a chapter in our history that is shameful?" Sir Ronald asked. "Without a proper response at all levels of Australian society I find it very difficult to see how a proper level of healing might be achieved."

His remarks are a direct challenge to John Howard, the Prime Minister, who has refused to issue a formal apology to the Aborigines on behalf of his Government.

Mr Howard, speaking to *The Times* yesterday, said it was "not appropriate" to ask one generation to accept responsibility for the wrongs committed by another generation. "Obviously, as a person I am sorry," he said. "These practices are now regarded as



A report on Aboriginal children torn from their tribes has caused a wave of shame, writes Michael Binion in Sydney

being quite unacceptable." But he said there was "something contradictory" between tendering national unqualified apology and arguing that the Government was not going to pay compensation.

Sir Ronald is a distinguished former judge and Australian representative to the 1993 United Nations Human Rights conference. The investigation has horrified Australia with revelations of rape, child abuse, beatings and mental breakdown suffered by thousands of children who were wrenching from their tribes. However, Sir Ronald did not believe it was now possible or desirable to prosecute those responsible. "It worries me if people fix the healing of souls on retribution." He refused to assign guilt, saying the policy was well-intentioned, if misguided. It aimed to "solve" the Aboriginal problem by assimilating the young and allowing older Aborigines to die out.

Missionaries were morav-

ed by the belief that they had a God-given task to spread the Gospel and make little Christians of Aboriginal children.

Sir Ronald's report has provoked a wave of shame, embarrassment and controversy. However, polls show that a majority of Australians oppose a formal apology, which Sir Ronald called surprising and disappointing.

His report also urges the setting up of a national compensation fund, to which churches, state governments and individuals could contribute. He said this would avoid the pain of lawsuits, and make equal payments to all victims with extra money for those who suffered sexual or physical abuse.

Sir Ronald said his commission, set up by the previous Labor Government, had listened to 535 individual accounts from Aborigines who as children were placed in white homes, and had considered another 1,000 written reports.



Alec Kruger, taken from his mother at the age of three. Now he seeks damages

Exploited 'chattels' say nothing can make up for loss

FROM DAVID BENTLEY
IN BRISBANE

EVEN AS Australia's leaders weigh the legal and financial consequences of apologising to Aboriginal "stolen children", many Aborigines say no amount of money can compensate for the loss of family, culture and sense of belonging.

"I was taken from my people's land, from my dreaming and my culture," says Aleck Kruger, 72, who was three when police snatched him from his mother. "If I had stayed, I would have been an elder now."

One of thousands of part-Aboriginal children seized earlier this century by social workers and missionaries in a drive to solve the "half-caste problem". Mr Kruger has sought damages in the High Court. If successful, his action will spawn similar suits from 600 claimants.

"Their idea was to remove part-Aborigines to force us to assimilate into white society," said Barbara Cummings, an Aboriginal activist.

The "stolen children" chapter dates back to a 1918 ordinance empowering "protectors" to sepa-

gate children of mixed blood. Official logic ruled that the best hope for children of mixed parentage was "detribalisation". This meant indoctrinating children with Christianity and providing sufficient education to qualify them for domestic and stockmen's chores. It was hoped the shortage of white women would encourage white men to marry women of mixed blood. By slow degrees, dark-skinned people would be bred out.

Many of the older generation who gave up their lighter-skinned offspring now accuse the Government

of hoodwinking them. In many cases, they say, social workers promised to return the children when they had been educated.

A few children were lucky enough to find their way into loving families. More often than not, however, mixed-blood foster children were treated as cheap domestic help.

Those responsible for placing half-caste children in government institutions say that the Northern Territory was a very different place during its frontier years. After 55 years of running Aboriginal missions on Bathurst and Melville islands,

Brother John Pie defends his stewardship of "kidnapped" Aboriginal children. "In the Kimberley area, they not only killed half-caste babies, they ate them as well," he says.

Aboriginal girls, he says, lived in constant moral danger from wandering miners, stockmen and even police. Japanese pearl mining crews abducted them for sexual gratification, then threw them overboard. His claims are supported by Colin MacLeod, a former welfare patrol officer.

He says mixed-blood girls were treated as chattels — used for sex and traded for alcohol and cigarettes.

FULL INSTRUCTIONS FOR SETTING UP AN ANSWERING SERVICE ON YOUR CELLNET MOBILE PHONE.

1. DIAL 1750 SEND.
2. ER...THAT'S IT.
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Not too difficult, is it? A signal will tell you if you have any messages. And to play them back, you just dial 901 Send. Setting up Callback costs nothing. Retrieving your messages costs 39p a minute. (This is charged by the second on digital tariffs.) If you'd like to know more, call Cellnet on 0800 21 4000.



COSTS SHOWN ARE CELLNET SOLUTIONS LTD B&P

McVeigh parents plead for his life

FROM TOM RHODES
IN WASHINGTON

THE PARENTS of Timothy McVeigh, the mass murderer convicted of the Oklahoma City bombing, begged the jury in the sentencing hearing yesterday to spare their son's life as his defence brought its case to a close.

Even McVeigh, who showed no emotion during his trial, wiped a tear from an eye during his mother's evidence.

After last week's testimony from a prosecution intent on portraying McVeigh, 29, as having committed premeditated murder, the defence had called many friends, army colleagues and others in an attempt to portray the decorated Gulf War veteran as a typical boy next door.

The lawyers had saved the most compelling evidence until last, when Mildred Frazier and William McVeigh, his divorced parents, pleaded for mercy in sentencing after their son was convicted last week on 11 charges, including the murder of eight federal employees in the Alfred P. Murrah building in Oklahoma City.

Choking back tears, Mrs

Frazier, who left her husband when McVeigh was 16, described the defendant as a human being who deserved to live.

"I still cannot believe to this day he could have caused this devastation," she said. "Yes, I am pleading for my son's life. He is a human being, as we all are. He is not the monster he has been portrayed as."

Her former husband narrated a 15-minute film of his son's childhood in Pendleton and Lockport, New York, a compilation of home videos of the young McVeigh as an av-

erage boy growing up in suburban America.

Jannie Covendale, who lost two children in the bombing, said Mrs Frazier's words were very moving. "It was the first time I had seen Tim's mom, and it was the first time I had seen him show any emotion."

Closing arguments are set for today, when the same jury that convicted McVeigh will be asked to deliberate on whether he should be sentenced to life imprisonment or face death by lethal injection.

Despite the severity of the Oklahoma crime, in which 16

Defence chief left isolated by gaffe

BY TOM RHODES

WILLIAM COHEN, the United States Defence Secretary, was struggling yesterday to find a new candidate to head America's armed services after an Air Force general withdrew from the race over an adulterous affair.

The departure of General Joseph Ralston after his admission last week of a year-long affair with a CIA employee 13 years ago, was the first crisis for Mr Cohen in his four-month tenure at the Pentagon, but could have further repercussions for him.

The token Republican in President Clinton's Cabinet, Mr Cohen has found himself marginalised. When he announced that he had drawn a line under sexual misconduct in the military but would support General Ralston the White House quickly played down its support for his candidacy as the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

White House aides privately found it extraordinary that the Defence Secretary had backed the general in spite of other recent dismissals of military personnel for similar "crimes". Colleagues in Congress accused Mr Cohen of double standards.

The Pentagon is eager to find a new candidate for the post as fast as possible to neutralise any further criticism of Mr Cohen. But the apparent failure of his first big test in office has inspired questions about his ability to handle the job.

Leading article, page 23

Man claims male colleagues were sex pests

New York: The United States Supreme Court will shortly consider its first "man-on-man" sexual harassment suit (Tunku Varadarajan writes).

The case, filed by Joseph Oncale, an oil-rig worker, raises a question still unresolved in America: does the law protect employees from harassment by co-workers of the same sex? Mr Oncale

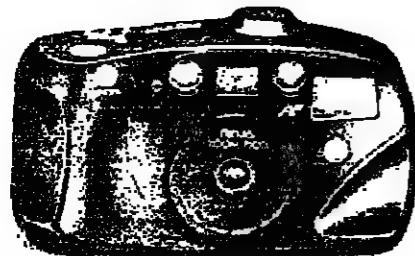
alleges he was subjected to sexual harassment and "hostile work environment" by his supervisors. He claims that they often touched his private parts and even threatened him with rape. "I'm going to get you," one of them is said to have threatened.

The incidents forced Mr Oncale to resign from his job after only seven

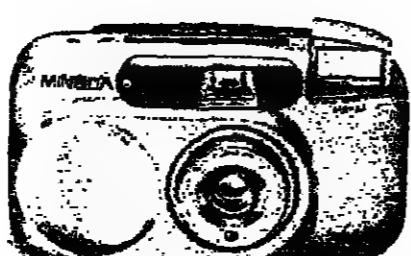
months. He sued the owners of the oil rig in the lower courts, all of which rejected his suit on the grounds that the harassment law was intended only to cover cases where men harassed women, and vice versa. The Supreme Court is his forum of last resort.

The Clinton Administration has urged the Supreme Court to rule for Mr Oncale.

FOUR WAYS TO GET CLOSER TO YOUR FATHER THIS SUNDAY.



FICO
35-60mm Zoom.
Fully automatic. High quality aspherical Zoom lens. Self timer. Versatile automatic flash with red eye reduction.
£89.99



28-70mm Zoom.
Ultra wide-angle telephoto Zoom lens. Smooth 'pebble shaped' design. Soft flash for natural looking portraits. Also available in black.
£159.99



115EX
38-115mm Zoom.
Soft flash for natural portraits and close-ups. Sleek 'capsule' design. Fully retractable Zoom lens and flash. Aluminium casing. Also available in black.
£189.99



140EX
38-60mm Zoom.
The world's smallest Zoom compact in its class. Five 'modes' to match your subject. Stylish aluminium casing. Optional remote control.
£249.99

Minolta (UK) Ltd, Rookley Park, Precent Drive, Rookley, Milton Keynes, MK13 8HF.

MINOLTA

Dayan
of peac
[israel]

THE TIMES THURSDAY JUNE 12 1997

Dayan as 'seeker of peace' shakes Israel's legends

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE reported reluctance of Moshe Dayan, Defence Minister during the 1967 Six-Day War, to occupy Arab territories was reaffirmed this week by the former general who marched with him through the gates of Jerusalem's Old City, location of some of the world's holiest sites.

In a controversial interview to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the conflict that transformed the map of the Middle East, former General Uzi Narkiss said that at the height of the battle, while standing atop Mount Scopus overlooking the walled Old City, he told the late Dayan: "Moshe, now I need the political approval to forge ahead to the Old City."

As well as containing the Wailing Wall, the holiest Jewish site, the Old City of east Jerusalem includes Al Aqsa mosque, the third holiest Islamic shrine after Mecca and Medina, and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the site where many Christians believe Jesus was crucified.

Mr Narkiss told Israel Radio that Dayan, one of Israel's most celebrated commanders, who died in 1981, had not expressed the enthusiasm for the conquest that has since been universally assumed. "He said: 'What do we need it for, this Vatican? That's what he called it, the Vatican,'" Mr Narkiss added.

Mr Narkiss's graphic, first-

He said:
What do we
need it for, this
Vatican? That's
what he called
it, the Vatican

He also said that the swash-buckling Dayan, who lost his left eye fighting for the Allies against Vichy French forces in Lebanon in 1941, believed that the Old City — which is holy to Judaism, Christianity and Islam — should be an international city within Israel's borders. This view has been also confirmed by Yael, Dayan's politician daughter.

hand memories are among a series of recent disclosures that paint Dayan as a soldier who hoped to make peace with the Arabs, and smash a number of myths about the founding of the Jewish state. In the 1967 war, Israel destroyed the Jordanian, Syrian and Egyptian armies in a pre-emptive strike, capturing vast expanses of land from all three countries.

Mr Narkiss, a widely respected general, also confirmed claims made last month by Rami Tal, an Israeli journalist, that Dayan believed the Golan Heights, captured from Syria, was not a strategic necessity, as is claimed by Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, but a playing card in peace negotiations.

Tal's revelation came from his notes from an interview with Dayan. The story was not published then because Dayan was planning to write his own memoirs, an event that did not materialise. About 60 per cent of Tal's interview remains unpublished because it deals with personal matters, such as the many women in Dayan's colourful life.

This week Mr Narkiss recalled: "We could have advanced to Damascus, because the Syrian Army was in such terrible shape, but Moshe wanted to stop the whole

time." Tal has said that Dayan's greatest regret was the capture of the Golan and allowing Jewish settlers to settle in the occupied West Bank and Hebron.

Yael Dayan, a leading oppo-

sition Labour Party MP, said that in June 1967 her father finally gave in to pressure and ordered the capture of the Old City.

That act is rated by many Jews as the most emotional

event in the 40-year history of the state. What is not clear, however, is how long the final battle to wrest control of the Old City from the Jordanian Army was delayed because of the Defence Minister's doubts.

ANC woos Buthelezi with new powers in hope of burying past

FROM R.W. JOHNSON
IN JOHANNESBURG

THE outlines are becoming clear of an historic deal in South Africa which could at last heal the breach between President Mandela's ANC and Chief Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party.

Potentially this is the best news the country had in years for a deal would not only bring peace to the province of KwaZulu/Natal but would also greatly consolidate the country's future stability. The effects on business confidence, property prices and financial markets are all likely to be dramatic if such a deal goes through.

Chief Buthelezi founded his Inkatha movement with the support of the ANC.

But difficulties between the two movements grew in the late 1970s when the ANC had become committed to a revolutionary strategy of "people's war".

By the early 1980s a conflict between the ANC and Inkatha had become entrenched in KwaZulu/Natal in which more than 12,000 people have died. Violence continued after the 1994 elections which saw Chief Buthelezi enter the national Government as a junior partner to the ANC, while winning power in KwaZulu/Natal.

In the meantime, trouble has been expected as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission begins its work in the province. Inkatha has refused to cooperate with the commission, claiming that it is a partisan ANC body. Thabo Mbeki, the Deputy President, has taken the hint and recently made the first public admission that the ANC had once plotted Chief Buthelezi's assassination.

The deal now proposed has several elements. First, it will be agreed that the truth commission is not a suitable body to inquire into the violence in KwaZulu/Natal. Instead a new body with commissioners acceptable to both sides will be constituted and will meet only in camera. The commission will be told that it must accept the findings of this subsidiary body. Second, there will be an agreement that Chief Buthelezi is to become a Deputy President with Mr Mbeki. Third, there will be an agreement for a permanent Inkatha-ANC coalition government in KwaZulu/Natal.



Mr Mandela and Chief Buthelezi, seeking peace

How much would it cost to replace your wife?

Please don't get us wrong. We're not suggesting you trade your partner in. Just that you think about the financial consequences of losing her.

Whilst everyone's situation is different, recent research shows that on average it costs £312.79 a week to pay someone to do all the cooking, cleaning and childcare handled by a parent who stays at home.

That's £16,265* a year you'd have to find if the unthinkable happened.

You could cope with our Family Protection Plan. For the monthly equivalent of just 20p a day, it could provide £69,469 to help secure your family's financial future.

Call us now for a free quote

for your partner and yourself, or contact your financial adviser.

- CASH LUMP SUM PAID IF YOU DIE
- CASH LUMP SUM PAID IF YOU BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR TERMINAL ILLNESS BENEFIT
- YOU DECIDE HOW MUCH COVER YOU WANT
- YOU DECIDE HOW LONG YOU WANT COVER FOR
- MONTHLY PREMIUM ALWAYS STAYS THE SAME

*Source Legal & General 1996 Value of a Mums Survey

FREE LEGAL & GENERAL KIDS UMBRELLA

When your application is accepted and first premium paid

CALL FREE NOW FOR YOUR INSTANT PERSONAL QUOTE

0500 33 66 66

QUOTING REFERENCE NUMBER B21/DL09

Lines are open 8am to 8pm, Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday and Sunday. For your protection, calls on this number will usually be recorded and randomly monitored. Further information on Legal & General products available on our website <http://www.legal-and-general.co.uk>. You and then, we may tell you about other products or services offered by the Legal & General Group of companies that we believe may be of interest to you. If you would prefer not to receive this carefully selected information, please contact us at the address above.

Legal & General Direct Limited is a representative only of the Legal & General Marketing group, members of which are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and TICO for the purposes of recommending, advising on and selling life assurance and investment products bearing Legal & General's name.

Legal & General Direct Limited registered in England No 2732089, Registered Office Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4EP.

Post to Legal & General, FREEPOST (SWC 9467), Cardiff, CF1 1YW. Please send me, without obligation, an information pack on The Legal & General Family Protection Plan and my free personal quotation.

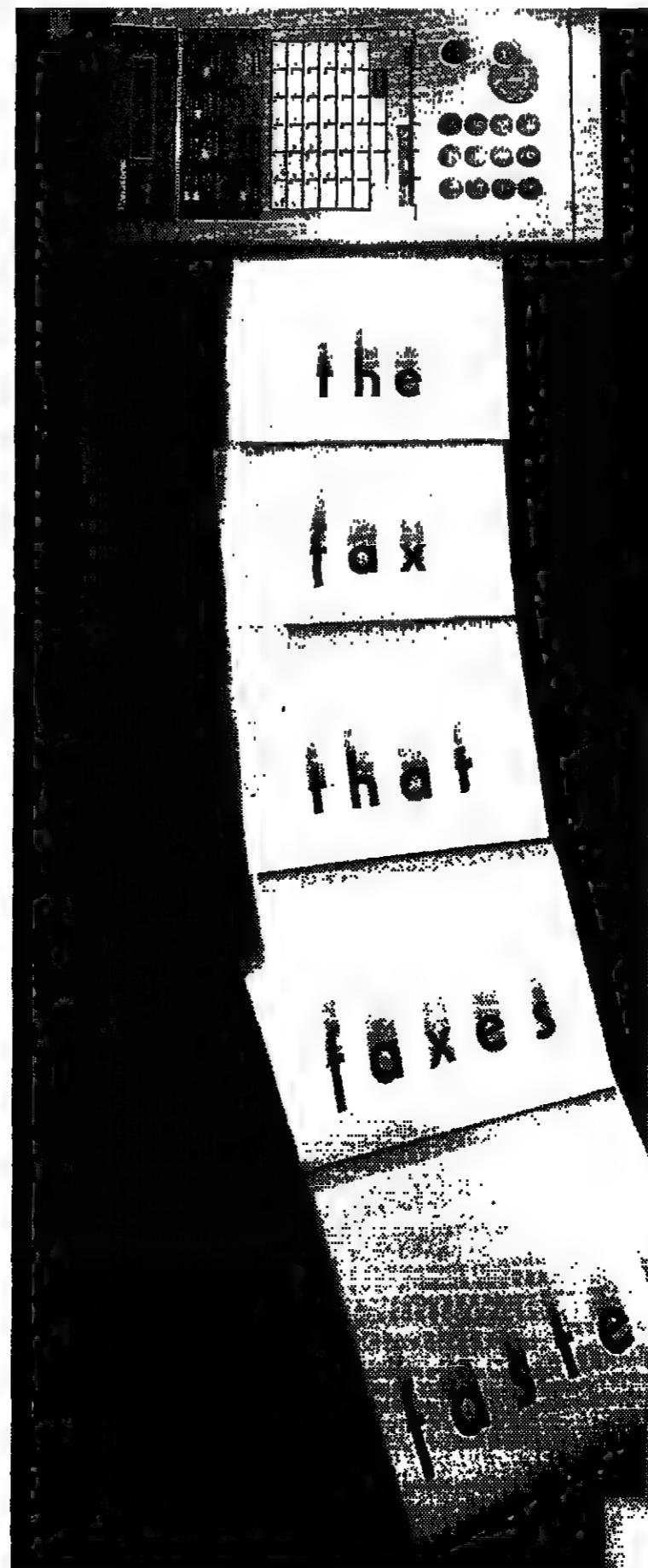
Surname (Mr/Mrs/Ms/Ms) _____ Postcode _____

Address _____ Tel No _____

Date of birth _____ I am a smoker non-smoker

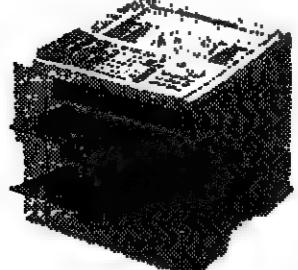
Occupation _____ Marital Status _____

Cover required £ _____ Term required years (Minimum 2 years) _____ Ref B21/DL09



THE PANASONIC SUPER G3 LASER FAX

The new UF-880 doesn't hang about. It's capable of sending an entire page in around 3 seconds, thanks to the Super G3 modem (33.6-Kbps) - the cutting edge of technology developed by Panasonic, the pioneers of modern fax.



It doesn't stop there. With the latestJBIG compression capabilities, it's able to send documents with photographs or back-shaded text, which will then be clearly reproduced the other end, in remarkably less time than conventional faxes.

But speed isn't everything. It comes with a 70 page memory as standard, that's upgradable to 740 pages; a 250 sheet paper drawer that can be expanded to 1000 sheets; and PC network compatibility. It all adds up to an impressive machine.

So if you need the ultimate fax machine that can keep up with your business needs, catch up with the Panasonic UF-880.

For more information call free on 0500 40 40 41

Panasonic
Facsimile

OVERSEAS NEWS 17

WORLD IN BRIEF

Shark fishermen face export ban

Harare: A big step towards controlling commercial shark fishing was taken here yesterday at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species — Cites — (Jan Raath writes). A ban on exporting severely depleted species of shark may be imposed at the next Cites meeting.

The assembly of 139 countries backed a report by Traffic International, the Cites research adviser, which found that the fishing of some species was "unsustainable" and threatened their survival. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, Traffic and the Worldwide Fund for Nature, are to set up procedures to decide on the most endangered species and whether Cites rules that limit or outlaw international trading can apply to them. The report said up to 70 million sharks were killed each year.

Ship cargo fraudster jailed

Kiel: A German was convicted of being an accessory to murder and insurance fraud for his role in a freighter explosion 20 years ago that killed six of the 12-man crew. Hans Peter Daimler, 62, was jailed for 14 years for helping to plot involving the cargo, which was falsely manifested at £12.5 million. He forged papers declaring that the freighter *Lucona* carried uranium processing equipment, when it carried oxidised coal equipment. (AP)

Tamil attack leaves 250 dead

Colombo: Sri Lankan troops began clearing northern areas of the island after a large-scale attack by separatist Tamil guerrillas on the army's forward defences left more than 250 dead, the Defence Ministry said. A ministry statement said that more than 1,000 Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rebels took part in the pre-dawn attack on Tuesday on the army's defences north of the government-held frontline town of Vavuniya, 135 miles north of Colombo. (Reuters)

Leader's helicopter attacked

Mount Hagen: A nationwide dusk-to-dawn curfew came into force in Papua New Guinea yesterday in the run-up to the weekend elections after a candidate was shot dead and the helicopter of Sir Julius Chan, the Prime Minister, was stoned in the troubled Highlands region. Sir Julius was some distance from the parked aircraft and was not hurt. (AP)

Du Pont pays for crime

Media, Pennsylvania: John E. du Pont, right, was ordered to reimburse the US Government the \$742,107.20 (£452,780.50) it spent to convict him of murdering David Schultz, an Olympic gold medal wrestler, in 1996. Du Pont, 53, the heir to a chemicals fortune, is serving a 13 to 30-year prison term after being found guilty of third-degree murder while mentally ill. (AP)

Volcano pets' sanctuary

Miami: Abandoned dogs and cats from the British island ofMontserrat, plagued for two years by a volcano, will get a new life in America, the World Society for Protection of Animals said. It has arranged to take 17 pets to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where families will take them in. (Reuters)

THE TIMES THURSDAY JUNE 12 1997

'Refugee fury over French 'meddling' in Congo conflict'

By SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

FRENCH nationals evacuated by Foreign Legionnaires from fighting in Brazzaville said they had left behind a city of "butchered" and devastated and criticised French diplomats for "meddling" in the politics of Congo-Brazzaville and hampering rescue efforts.

Many of the evacuees who arrived in Paris yesterday said that they had stepped over bodies in Brazzaville's boulevards as they were whisked to safety by legionnaires and spoke of slaughter on the streets of the capital of this former French colony.

They said that diplomats and consular officials had endangered their lives, and those of the French soldiers by playing at local politics instead of assisting the evacuation.

"They were totally disorganized and less interested in our safety than in playing a role in Congolese politics," one man said on arrival in Paris.

An aid worker who also fled the city said the buildings had been pounded with mortars

and heavy artillery for nearly a week in fighting between the army and political militias in which one French soldier was killed and five others wounded. The military losses suffered by the French were due to a lack of organisation between the military authorities and the French Foreign Ministry," he said.

The bitterness of the French refugees was a blow to President Chirac's efforts to improve his recent record in Africa after failures to further French interests in Rwanda and Democratic Republic of Congo, the former Zaire, by offering to broker a ceasefire.

The angry public statements

of survivors from Brazzaville is likely to further embarrass M Chirac's officials who may face legal action from French nationals who said they would sue the Government for failing to help people in danger.

Their threat yesterday came as the faction known as the Cobras and government soldiers agreed to a temporary ceasefire which had been ne-

gotiated by a third faction leader, the head of the so-called Ninjas. President Lissouba yesterday announced that he was ordering an immediate ceasefire after meeting Bernard Kolelas, the Ninja leader and Mayor of Brazzaville, who then persuaded General Denis Sassou-Nguesso, a former President and the Cobra leader, to agree to stop fighting.

The Ninja leader had been behind an uprising in 1993 that left 2,000 dead and 200,000 homeless and later turned large areas of the capital into a personal fiefdom. Yesterday there were no reliable casualty figures from the week of fighting but evacuees said that many buildings had been destroyed, leaving the once-sleepy city "looking like Beirut".

Mr Kolelas called on French troops to police a ceasefire along with soldiers from all three factions as thousands of civilians flooded into the areas under his control to escape the fighting.

Mr Lissouba won general elections in 1992, ending years of military dictatorship under General Sassou-Nguesso who later accused the civilian leader of rigging the vote in his favour, sparking the 1993

bloodbath. Since then Congo-Brazzaville has been teetering on the brink of civil war.

Yesterday Mr Kolelas warned: "If nobody takes the first step towards a ceasefire then the country is lost".

□ Paris: France decided yesterday to send 400 more troops to Brazzaville to help with a possible evacuation of all French citizens, increasing the number of its troops to 1,250. France's forces have evacuated 1,778 foreigners, two-thirds of them French, from Brazzaville to nearby Gabon by air since Monday, a military spokesman said. About 1,000 have reached France. (Reuters)

French and Congolese take cover behind a wall as fighting continues near Brazzaville airport yesterday

YUN SUK-HONG / REUTER

Children to take back seat in safety drive

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

Children below the age of 13 could soon be banned from travelling in the front seat of a car in America.

In an attempt to reduce the number of road deaths — more than 40,000 every year — the Federal Transport Safety Board has called on state legislators to force parents to seat all under-13s in the back of the car. There would be at least 10,000 fewer deaths each year, the board argued, if all children sat in the back seat and all adults wore their seat belts.

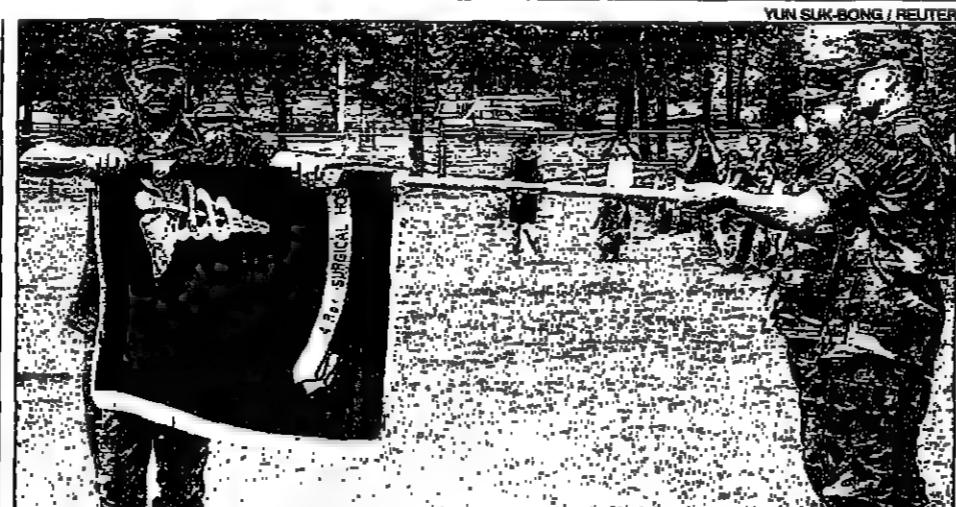
George Black, a board member, said: "We're having the equivalent of a Valujet every day in this country in terms of road fatalities." He was referring to an air disaster last year when a Valujet passenger plane crashed in

the Florida Everglades, killing all 110 people aboard.

Although highway safety laws are the prerogative of the states, the federal authorities are not expecting strong opposition to their child-safety proposal.

Acknowledging the power of Hollywood to shape public opinion, the transport safety board has also appealed to film-makers to show children always seated in the back of cars. James Hall, the board's chairman, told *The New York Times*: "We can change society's attitudes. It has been done before... It used to be acceptable to drink and drive. Today it is not."

Although six European countries ban children in the front seat, Britain, as yet, has no restrictions.



Last operation for MASH

phreys, 35 miles south of Seoul, wiped tears from their eyes as an army band played the theme tune from the show that immortalised wisecracking but dedicated doctors

and nurses who served at the front lines in the 1950-53 Korean War. The MASH unit was among only four left in the world. They are being phased out to make way for what the military says will be a smaller, faster, more efficient medical group, called the Forward Surgical Team. (AP)

Hong Kong officials accused over cover-up

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

THE highest levels of Hong Kong's Government were condemned yesterday for "misleading" citizens and the Legislative Council.

With less than three weeks to go before the handover of the colony to China, an all-party report by the council accuses the Government of encouraging senior officials to "tailor evidence". The criticism concerned last year's sudden departure of Laurence Leung, the Director of Immigration, a civil servant for 31 years who retired officially for "personal reasons".

In the absence of a satisfactory explanation for Mr Leung's departure, the council set up a select committee to investigate the affair. All senior officials interviewed insisted that Mr Leung went at

his own request. But in January, Mr Leung appeared before the committee and in words of Ip Kwok Hin, its chairman, "turned the proceedings around by 180 degrees". Mr Leung claimed he had been offered either immediate retirement or full pension or a disciplinary action on unspecified charges. The Government immediately conceded that what Mr Leung said was true.

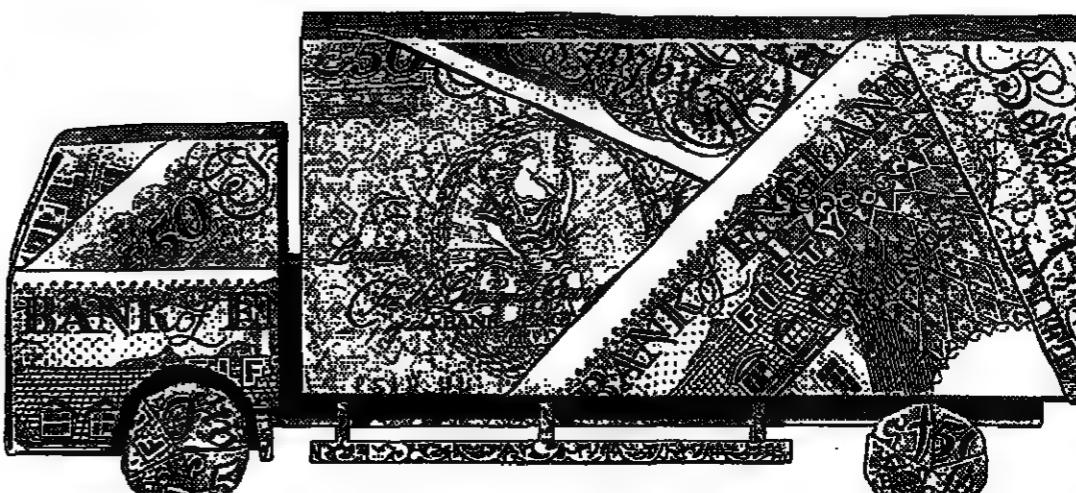
Anson Chan, the Chief Secretary, said the seeming cover-up was because of the Government's concern for "confidentiality". The report accepted Ms Chan's explanation but insisted that officials must be "frank under oath".

Ms Chan yesterday declined to comment until she had read the report.

A common view of business finance.



Our view.



Some people see your new truck or IT system as just money. As if business finance was just about finance. It's not. It's about having real value from them. It's about understanding the decisions you have to make now and how they can influence the way you invest in future. It's about making it easier for you to look forward and think ahead. It's the extra service we bring to the table when we bring the finance. An extra service that's part of the service. Money isn't everything, you see.

Forward Looking, Forward Thinking



Forward Trust
Member HSBC Group

The Family PC!

Offers End 14th June

From Only
£29
Per Month
On Interest Free Credit

The Family PC from Time Computers is a full-feature multimedia system designed to deliver performance and real benefits together with ease of use for home buyers.

Compare the specification of our Family PC with any other similar priced high street PC. You will find we are offering better value with a faster 16bit processor, 16Mb RAM and 20 monthly payments. Max price £1,075.00, deposit and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit and 20 monthly payments of £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit + VAT = £280.00. Cash price £1,075.00

At yes £289 + VAT (£109.50 inc. VAT) with Interest Free Credit and payment options as low as £2.29 per month. You will not find a better deal anywhere. Call direct or visit one of our 25 retail outlets nationwide now!

0%
Interest Free Credit Example (Family PC) £1,075.00
Pay just £28.00 (10% deposit) and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit + VAT = £280.00. Cash price £1,075.00

Interest Free Credit Example (Family PC) £1,075.00
Pay just £28.00 (10% deposit) and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit + VAT = £280.00. Cash price £1,075.00

Interest Free Credit Example (Family PC) £1,075.00
Pay just £28.00 (10% deposit) and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit + VAT = £280.00. Cash price £1,075.00

Interest Free Credit Example (Family PC) £1,075.00
Pay just £28.00 (10% deposit) and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit + VAT = £280.00. Cash price £1,075.00

Interest Free Credit Example (Family PC) £1,075.00
Pay just £28.00 (10% deposit) and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit + VAT = £280.00. Cash price £1,075.00

Interest Free Credit Example (Family PC) £1,075.00
Pay just £28.00 (10% deposit) and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit + VAT = £280.00. Cash price £1,075.00

Interest Free Credit Example (Family PC) £1,075.00
Pay just £28.00 (10% deposit) and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit + VAT = £280.00. Cash price £1,075.00

Interest Free Credit Example (Family PC) £1,075.00
Pay just £28.00 (10% deposit) and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit + VAT = £280.00. Cash price £1,075.00

Interest Free Credit Example (Family PC) £1,075.00
Pay just £28.00 (10% deposit) and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit + VAT = £280.00. Cash price £1,075.00

Interest Free Credit Example (Family PC) £1,075.00
Pay just £28.00 (10% deposit) and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit + VAT = £280.00. Cash price £1,075.00

Interest Free Credit Example (Family PC) £1,075.00
Pay just £28.00 (10% deposit) and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit + VAT = £280.00. Cash price £1,075.00

Interest Free Credit Example (Family PC) £1,075.00
Pay just £28.00 (10% deposit) and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit + VAT = £280.00. Cash price £1,075.00

Interest Free Credit Example (Family PC) £1,075.00
Pay just £28.00 (10% deposit) and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit + VAT = £280.00. Cash price £1,075.00

Interest Free Credit Example (Family PC) £1,075.00
Pay just £28.00 (10% deposit) and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit + VAT = £280.00. Cash price £1,075.00

Interest Free Credit Example (Family PC) £1,075.00
Pay just £28.00 (10% deposit) and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit + VAT = £280.00. Cash price £1,075.00

Interest Free Credit Example (Family PC) £1,075.00
Pay just £28.00 (10% deposit) and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit + VAT = £280.00. Cash price £1,075.00

Interest Free Credit Example (Family PC) £1,075.00
Pay just £28.00 (10% deposit) and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit + VAT = £280.00. Cash price £1,075.00

Interest Free Credit Example (Family PC) £1,075.00
Pay just £28.00 (10% deposit) and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit + VAT = £280.00. Cash price £1,075.00

Interest Free Credit Example (Family PC) £1,075.00
Pay just £28.00 (10% deposit) and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit + VAT = £280.00. Cash price £1,075.00

Interest Free Credit Example (Family PC) £1,075.00
Pay just £28.00 (10% deposit) and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit + VAT = £280.00. Cash price £1,075.00

Interest Free Credit Example (Family PC) £1,075.00
Pay just £28.00 (10% deposit) and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit + VAT = £280.00. Cash price £1,075.00

Interest Free Credit Example (Family PC) £1,075.00
Pay just £28.00 (10% deposit) and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit + VAT = £280.00. Cash price £1,075.00

Interest Free Credit Example (Family PC) £1,075.00
Pay just £28.00 (10% deposit) and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit + VAT = £280.00. Cash price £1,075.00

Interest Free Credit Example (Family PC) £1,075.00
Pay just £28.00 (10% deposit) and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit + VAT = £280.00. Cash price £1,075.00

Interest Free Credit Example (Family PC) £1,075.00
Pay just £28.00 (10% deposit) and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit + VAT = £280.00. Cash price £1,075.00

Interest Free Credit Example (Family PC) £1,075.00
Pay just £28.00 (10% deposit) and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit + VAT = £280.00. Cash price £1,075.00

Interest Free Credit Example (Family PC) £1,075.00
Pay just £28.00 (10% deposit) and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit + VAT = £280.00. Cash price £1,075.00

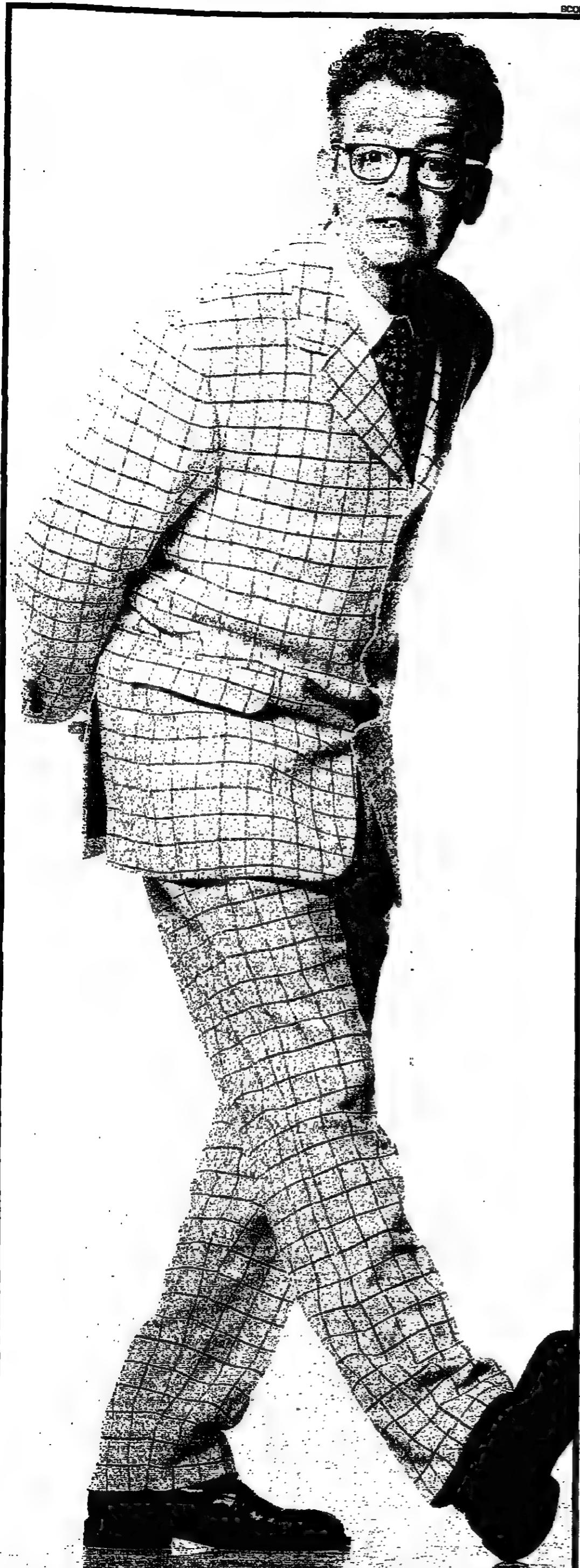
Interest Free Credit Example (Family PC) £1,075.00
Pay just £28.00 (10% deposit) and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit and 20 monthly payments £28.00. Total pack £28.00 deposit + VAT = £280.00. Cash price £1,075.00

Interest Free Credit Example (Family PC) £1,075

THE TIMES THURSDAY JUNE 12 1997

FEATURES 21

'I still want to be a fireman'

Ginger snapper: "If you grow up with ginger hair and glasses you don't expect to be in *Vogue*"

Chris Evans should be categorised as a class A substance. There's something dangerously addictive that flows from his pores and ensnares those near him. I know I should leave, but feel compelled to stay, even though his eyes are boring a hole in my chest and it's making me nervous. Images of dozens of blondes lurched by the wayside on his indefatigable rise to the top flash before me. And he's obviously the worse for wear.

But no, Chris Evans, superlad, friend of Gazzza and carouser of some repute, is merely signalling to me that my shirt button has come undone and my custom-padded Wonderbra is exposed for all to see. "Don't tell anyone," he mumbles. "My mates would kill me."

He glances round furtively to make sure his act of chivalry has gone unnoticed, then reverts to form. "Fancy another Grolsch, Mazza?"

It's Friday night and I'm playing darts with television's bad-boy genius in his favourite north London pub. A surprising spot, you may think, to find a multi-millionaire whose show — *TFI Friday* — has just gone live to three million viewers. But as I'm beginning to discover, Chris Evans, loved and loathed in equal measure, is full of surprises. Four hours earlier he was interviewing me on his show, now he wants me to return the favour. "Bailey's asked to photograph me for *Vogue*, will you do the interview?" He must be joking. Chris Evans hasn't done interviews since 1995. "Why now?" I ask. "If you grow up with ginger hair and glasses you don't expect to be in *Vogue*." It's a reason.

Two weeks and numerous suggested locations later — Capri, Loch Lomond, Kent? — we finally arrange to meet at my flat, 20ft from his own front door. He arrives and sits on my window ledge gazing out at the rooftop view of the capital. "This is fantastic," he whispers. It's in marked contrast to his loutish side, which the tabloids never tire of documenting.

To the outside world he's the fast-talking, flame-haired presenter who first captured the public's attention on Channel 4's groundbreaking *Big Breakfast*. Since then he's brought us a post-modern take on the game show with *Don't Forget Your Toothbrush* and revitalised an ailing Radio 1 with his controversial breakfast show, both made by his own company, Ginger Productions. Nowadays his on-screen antics take place on *TFI Friday*, the music show he created in October 1995 and for which he left Radio 1 earlier this year. At this time it seemed that Chris had finally gone too far; demanding a four-day week so he could concentrate on *TFI Friday* and then penitently walking out the minute he was turned down by Matthew Bannister, then head of Radio 1.

The perception was that I was taking the piss because I'm a bald-headed bastard cut for everything he can get. It's not true. I didn't want to leave. It was just that because of the show my adrenaline peak every weekday would be 9am. Fridays were a marathon because I'd have to summon up all my reserves to do *TFI* in the evening. I was getting away with it and I'm a 150 per cent person; I didn't want to get away with it. So in July I asked for Fridays off, and again on two other occasions. Then, because of the Christmas break, I did a *TFI* without doing the radio show. It was a totally different experience. But Matthew Bannister just thought I was trying to put one over on him. I wasn't being lazy, I wanted to do a great four days on the radio, and a great TV show."

Surely he could see it from Bannister's point; what were his listeners supposed to do on Fridays? "In the States, loads of jocks do Mondays to Thursdays. It's a way of getting your weekend DJ known, by starting him on Fridays and the audience will befriend him and listen at the weekend. But Matthew was getting a lot of flak from the governors for what we did on the radio."

While complaints from the governors centred on the frequently salacious banter, it was his capacity for cruelty that took me by surprise, humiliating one of the team on air for fiddling his expenses and

In his first interview since he walked out of Radio 1, Chris Evans talks to Mariella Frostrup about ambition and his father's death. And he cries

another by forcing her to admit she'd slept with him.

"I was playing with them. If you listen to a tape you'll hear that we were having a laugh. Look, the saddest moment for those people was when that radio show ended. So that tells you something about how much they enjoyed it. And they're still working for me now."

As is his current girlfriend, Suzi Apilin, a producer on his show.

However much he protests, there is no question that he can be downright nasty — a fault he eventually concedes. "It's a see-red thing. It's not right and I shouldn't do it, but I do. These days I do it a lot less. I don't work as hard now, so I've got time to be nice to people."

As if to prove it, he leans over to light my cigarette and asks if I can remove his shoes. On Melody Radio in the background Billy Joel is claiming he's an innocent man and I'm discovering that the soft

"All I ever wanted to be was a fireman. So when we were sent to the careers officer just before our O levels I walked in and said, 'I won't waste your time, cos I'm gonna be a fireman'. He said, 'OK, but just one thing ... what are those things on your nose?'. I said, 'What?' He said, 'Those things, what are they?'. I said, 'They're glasses'. And he said, 'How are you going to be a fireman?'"

Tears trickle down his cheeks. His body is motionless, but his hands are clenched. Embarrassed, I ask how it made him feel. "I was devastated. I still want to be a fireman 'cos I think they do a great job." I've located a box of tissues but the tears are drying up. "My mum was a nurse, my brother's a lecturer in psychiatrics, geriatrics, whatever-trics and my dad worked in a hospital too. I pushed old people around there, all 22 miles of corridors, and I thought, this is

BIG PICTURES



Evans and Frostrup: "I should do more interviews, it's free therapy"

'Being nasty is a see-red thing.'

'It's not right and I shouldn't do it, but I do.'

'These days I do it a lot less.'

great but not my cup of tea. I've got to do something else like this because this is what it's all about."

Fate led him elsewhere: he left school to work in a newsagent. While bartending with the logistics of delivering 3,500 newspapers he used to listen to a break-fast DJ whose main interest seemed to be where his next cup of coffee was coming from. "I thought, 'I want this job.' He achieved his goal and worked for Piccadilly Radio until the first of the showdowns which have punctuated his working life. I'm curious as to why, having got his dream job, he didn't seem to mind losing it. "I just don't have any fear. Danny Baker says my emotions are fireproof, and when you lose your Dad they just are."

Bette Midler is emoting from the radio and my guest with the fireproof emotions is crying softly as he remembers the death of his father from cancer, when he was just 14. Again, the tears tumble. I offer a tea break but no, he dabs his eyes and presses on.

"When someone you love dies you think hell, that's horrible; don't want any of that better get on with it; didn't realise it could happen. And so you run and run and run."

looking backwards to make sure you're getting further away, and then if you're not careful you've run so fast that you realise you're running away from his death, but towards your own."

He ran so fast that by the age of 26, after a plethora of short-lived jobs and a brief apprenticeship in local radio, he was the star of Channel 4's *Big Breakfast*. Now he says none of his achievements that "there is no emotion at all, no sense of adulation, no sense of anything". Chris Evans shut down the hatch to his heart at 14, that's why his emotional trip wires are all connected to the years that precede his father's death. It seems that no one has managed to prise it open since. But, as he says: "It's got me where I am. Otherwise I would have been swallowed by fear."

His problem is what to do next: he's all too aware of the pitfalls that fame can bring. "Normally you're still striving for your goals till you die. I've got everything and realised it's nothing. And I'm only 31."

"I'm not comfortable with my money, I only need a fiver for a pint of beer, a bag of crisps and a packet of fags. You can only have so many houses and so many cars before you realise you only need one of everything. But all this amassing money is not my fault, it's because I've got a great agent."

Evans may have a great agent, but he's also a sharp businessman. He puts it down to his training at the newsagent and common sense. "Knowing what you want, knowing what you're prepared to sell yourself for, setting yourself a limit, not bluffing because if people call your bluff you're going to look like an idiot. Meaning what you say — that's really important."

The immediate future seems secure. He's just renewed his contract for *TFI Friday*, which he loves. Aside from that he sees his future role behind the camera. "I'm not a great presenter, but I think I'm a good producer." A golf show called *Tee-Time* will hit the screens in September and he's also working on producing a three-hour documentary, *The History of Modeling*, to be directed by David Bailey.

As for his spare time, playmates such as Gazzza may find themselves drinking alone. "I read books now. I started last year, as a new year's resolution: play the piano, learn to cook, a new dish every week, and read a book a month. I've only kept up with the books. I'd even like to write one."

For the first time this afternoon Chris sits up, sensing that we're on the home run. His relief is palpable. I ask him where he sees himself in ten years' time. "I really don't know. Mazza. I don't aspire to anything professionally any more. Personally I do. I aspire to be happy. I want to make the three programmes we've got booked, but beyond that I've got no idea. You feel a bit lost, but it's not scary."

The sun is setting and I'm wondering whether to reach for the Kleenex again when he surprises me with a big bright gap-toothed smile. "Let's have that cup of tea. That was all right wasn't it? I should do more interviews, it's like free therapy."

Mercedes OWNERS

COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE FROM £170

Quality Rewarded by Low Insurance Cost Schemes for Mercedes

Tel: 0115 920 3220 NOW!

or Phone your Nearest Branch at the Local Rate on

0345 123111

Ask for a quote on the Internet: <http://www.hhh.co.uk>

Hill House Hammond

Over 250 Branches Nationwide

SUPERSEACAT. SUPER FARES TO CALAIS.

£149
APEX
STANDARD
RETURN
CAR + 5
DOVER - CALAIS

Taking the new SuperSeaCat to France really is a great way to start your holiday. Designed by Pininfarina this state-of-the-art craft is the ultimate in fast ferry technology. Stylish yet powerful, the SuperSeaCat speeds 800 passengers and 175 cars from our hassle-free port in Dover to Calais in only 50 minutes. Aboard this modern masterpiece you're free to relax.

HOVERSPEED

FAST FERRIES

<http://www.hoverspeed.co.uk>

*Service commences 23rd June. Bookings must be made 14 days in advance of travel. There is a £20.00 charge for bookings and a 50% cancellation fee applies. Limited space subject to availability. £149 Apex booking Fresh Step Inc.

RESERVATIONS 0990 240 241

Still the fastest way to France

Changing nannies at Number Ten

Downing Street isn't winning all the battles, says Sue Cameron

Labour's first 40 days in power have been marked by an imperious presidential style that is making itself felt in Whitehall at every level. Even the Downing Street doormen have been commanded by Cherie Blair's nanny to bump the family shopping upstairs.

Downing Street doormen are helpful, courteous men, who would not dream of saying no to a harassed nanny when she drops off the shopping at the door of No 10. Yet they are civil servants, and the Civil Service likes to be clear about who does what. It makes life easier for everyone if there is no confusion about roles in a small house that is both the office and the residence of the Prime Minister.

The story of the doormen and the upstairs nanny serves as a parable for what is happening downstairs at No 10, where senior civil servants are having to cope with the nannies of the Labour Party. Yet, just as Labour's centralising inner circle at No 10 seems poised to tighten its grip on the government machine, there are signs that Tony Blair and his lieutenants are having to slacken off. The movement may be minimal, but it has great significance for the Civil Service's traditions of neutrality and public service.

Downing Street is already facing a number of setbacks. The most humiliating is its failure to find anyone to head the No 10 Policy Unit. Why are top names in business and Whitehall turning down a job at the very heart of the Government?

At the same time, Mr Blair's aides have had to abandon plans to replace a politically neutral civil servant with a Labour Party appointee — Jonathan Powell — in the key post of Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister. Meanwhile, No 10's role in the row over pay rises at Camelot, and in the decision to railroad the Education Bill through the Commons, has brought further embarrassment.

The unfilled post at the policy unit is providing a particular problem. Neither Bob Ayling, the head of British Airways, nor Adair Turner, of the Confederation of British Industry, wanted it. Both men must have wondered how much influence they would have in the new-style Downing Street.

Mr Blair then wondered about a top civil servant — a move that might calm worries about officials being elbowed aside by political appointees. Rachel Lomax, from the Welsh Office, was approached. She, too, said no. It is hard to lead the unit without looking politically committed, which could prevent Mrs Lomax getting the job she really wants — that of Permanent Secretary at the Treasury.

The hand of Sir Robin Butler, Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Home Civil Service, can be seen in the Powell and Lomax decisions. Mrs Lomax will have discussed career moves with him and he has his say on appointments at No 10. Not that Sir

Already there are signs of the Blair team backing off

Chris Smith, the Heritage Secretary, taking a bruising line over pay with the directors of Camelot. Left to his own devices, Mr Smith would — it is claimed — have taken a more moderate approach, knowing that he had no powers to compel the directors to give up their bonuses. Whoever was to blame, the incident raised questions in the minds of other businessmen about arbitrary government.

Political gossip suggests

Whitehall's lone representative at Westminster is feeling

the effects of the new regime.

Murdo Maclean, the Civil Service "fixer" who helps the Government to do deals with Opposition parties on Commons business, is said to be finding that his phone does not ring as often as it did.

Had the Government been more sensitive to his advice, it might not have had to abandon plans to drive through its Education Bill in only two days. Angry Tories did not know half of it. The original plan was to take all stages of the Bill on the floor of the House in a single day — a move that would have made amendments almost impossible. The public climb-down only delayed the Bill's passage, but gave the impression of a Government in too much of a hurry.

Yet the No 10 strategists know they must move swiftly, while the style and pattern of the new Government are still in the melting pot. Soon everything will start to solidify, and by then it may be too late. That is why the small setbacks of the centralisers do matter.

Back inside

DEREK LEWIS, the former Director-General of the Prison Service, was back at the Home Office yesterday for the first time since he left the hands of former Home Secretary, Michael Howard.

Lewis had been summoned by Howard's replacement, Jack Straw, for an hour-long tête à tête on prison strategy. His replace-

ment, Richard Tilt, had no idea that the meeting was going on.

The news came as a surprise to Lewis's friend Ann Widdecombe, who was Howard's junior minister at the Home Office. She has made it her business since Labor's victory to bring Howard to his knees over his involvement in Lewis's downfall — Howard sacked him in 1995 after an escape from Parkhurst prison, on the Isle of Wight.

"It seems to me to be a recovery of common sense at the Home Office," said a jubilant Widdecombe yesterday. "All I can say is that I am very disappointed that one particular Home Secretary did not recognise his talents."

What ho!

NO POLICEMAN's helmet will be safe around Whitehall next month as the P.C. Wodehouse Society (N.P.C.W.S.) launches with a party on July 10 at the Savage Club, a tenant of the National Liberal Club. Despite having patrons including the Prime Minister, Richard Briers and Tom Sharpe, the society has been quiet of late. Hence the re-



The Oxbridge vote race

William Hague's impending success tells us much about British culture

Howard have already guaranteed him their two.

In a final round between Hague and Clarke, Hague is likely to get the majority of the votes cast on the first ballot for Redwood, Lilley and Howard. If, which is less likely, the final round is between Hague and Redwood, Hague is likely to get most of the votes cast on the first ballot for Clarke.

Since the Second World War, Oxford has dominated the leadership of both main parties. Each side has had seven party leaders; the Conservatives are about to elect their eighth. Labour has had five Oxford graduates, one from University College Cardiff, and one non-graduate. Labour has never been led by a Cambridge graduate; the last Conservative leader from Cambridge was Stanley Baldwin, who retired 60 years ago.

The Conservatives have also had five Oxford leaders and two non-graduates, Winston Churchill and John Major. One Oxford college, Balliol, has produced three party leaders out of the 14, while Christ Church and University College have produced two each. There have been three old Etonians, all Conservative. Two Oxford leaders have been particularly successful at winning general elections: Harold Wilson won four and lost one; Margaret Thatcher won twice and never lost one.

On the six occasions when an Oxford party leader has fought a general election against a non-Oxford leader, Oxford has won five times: the exception is Winston Churchill's defeat of Clement Attlee in 1951. Altogether, Oxford leaders have won 13 postwar elections: non-Oxford leaders won only twice, in 1951 and 1992. Etonian leaders won in 1955 and 1959, but lost in 1964. The most successful Oxford college has been University, which has won six of the 15 postwar elections, though four of them by very narrow margins.

Two of the final three candidates for the Conservative leadership, William Hague and John Redwood, went to the same Oxford college, Magdalen. Both of them gained a first class degree. Redwood is academically the more distinguished; he went on to win a fellowship at All Souls.

The arithmetic suggests that Hague is likely to be the eventual winner. He needs only 14 more votes to be sure of a place in the final run-off, and Peter Lilley and Michael

Hague has a good regional basis from which to do it, as indeed would the Midland-based Kenneth Clarke.

The Conservative Members of Parliament who have been voting for Hague include a contemporary of mine, Sir Peter Tapsell. He is, in my view, the most impressive of the senior backbenchers who happen never to have held office. Indeed, his career worked out a little differently 20 years ago, he could well himself have become leader of the Conservative Party. I am impressed by the number of experienced judges who have come to believe in Hague's ability to handle the top job in his party, even though I have not seen him in action often enough to have formed a strong opinion myself.

Perhaps the best placed of these judges is John Major. He promoted Hague into the new Cabinet because he thought he was exceptionally able. From an early stage in his parliamentary career, Major saw him as someone who might eventually become the leader of his party. I should be rather surprised if the vote which Major has rightly kept as confidential had not been cast for Hague.

There is also the argument for party unity. Of the five candidates for the party leadership on the first ballot only two, William Hague and Peter Lilley, were in a good position to unite the party. Kenneth Clarke, John Redwood — who has handled his campaign very well — and Michael Howard all had irreconcilable enemies, Hague and Lilley did not.

My own sympathies were for Peter Lilley — I shared the judgment of those who voted for him on the first ballot — but his best role in Opposition could well be that of Rab Butler after 1945, or Keith Joseph after 1975, the chief of policy-making. Hague can also bring John Redwood back into the Conservative Shadow Cabinet, which would be difficult for Clarke to do.

Kenneth Clarke undoubtedly stands outside the mainstream of the party on the issues of Europe. I think he is also too much a man of the

judges is John Major. He promoted Hague into the new Cabinet because he thought he was exceptionally able. From an early stage in his parliamentary career, Major saw him as someone who might eventually become the leader of his party. I should be rather surprised if the vote which Major has rightly kept as confidential had not been cast for Hague.

There is also the argument for party unity. Of the five candidates for the party leadership on the first ballot only two, William Hague and Peter Lilley, were in a good position to unite the party. Kenneth Clarke, John Redwood — who has handled his campaign very well — and Michael Howard all had irreconcilable enemies, Hague and Lilley did not.

My own sympathies were for Peter Lilley — I shared the judgment of those who voted for him on the first ballot — but his best role in Opposition could well be that of Rab Butler after 1945, or Keith Joseph after 1975, the chief of policy-making. Hague can also bring John Redwood back into the Conservative Shadow Cabinet, which would be difficult for Clarke to do.

Kenneth Clarke undoubtedly stands outside the mainstream of the party on the issues of Europe. I think he is also too much a man of the

Sixties or early Seventies in his ideas. He does have the largest body of support among active Conservatives in the country. But there has been no adequate national debate on Conservative policy. I suspect such a debate would have produced a national balance in the party closer to that among Tory MPs. In such debate as there was, John Redwood did particularly well; he has a very good mind, and he thoroughly earned his top placing on the Right.

One of the lessons of the Blair campaign is that elections are cultural and not intellectual events. That, I suspect, is why Oxford beats Cambridge even more regularly than Westminster than it loses at Mortlake. Oxford is the cultural and Cambridge is the intellectual university. Elections are decided by feelings, mood, passions, sympathy, fashions and style, rather than by the logic of the political debate.

Blair wooed the electorate; we were the Juliet and he was our Romeo. I am not sure that William Hague is as charming as Tony Blair. Indeed, I am sure he is not. But he does have something of the same good luck about him and perhaps there will come a moment when the electorate will turn its back on charm. After all, the gritty Yorkshireman, Geoffrey Boycott, ended up making more runs than that infinitely more stylish batsman, David Gower.

The thing to remember is that leaders never turn out as we expect. Of the postwar Conservative choices, Eden turned out worse, Macmillan and Home better, Heath worse, Thatcher hugely better and Major less successful than the general expectation at the time they got the job.

If the Tories choose Hague they will be surprised, one way or the other. Probably some of those who vote for him will be disappointed; perhaps some of those who vote against him will be delighted with his actual performance. The leadership changes the people who get it. It turned Margaret Thatcher from a guinea fowl into an eagle. Few of us knew she had it in her. If William Hague is elected next week, the party course will be for him to lose the election of 2001, win and become Prime Minister in 2005, win the election of 2010, and retire as leader after losing the election of 2015. He will then only be 54 years old, the age John Major is on his retirement.

Bowling the Scots a googly

Magnus Linklater
feels a Caledonian bias in the media

Golly," said Henry Blofeld, "it's all happening out there this afternoon." Not many people say "Golly" these days, except perhaps on *Test Match Special*, but he had a point. Australian wickets were tumbling, England was on the point of an historic step towards the Ashes, the nation was glued to the television, it all depended, which nation you were in. For a cricket fan in Scotland that Sunday afternoon, the viewing was a trifle frustrating. I have no complaints at all about the live coverage of Scotland's World Cup football game against Belarus (well I have, but I'm certainly not going to admit it in public). It was what followed that grated.

As Shane Warne dug in, and Eamonn was brought on, we switched to golf, then shiny. I yield to no one in my admiration for shiny, a fast and furious Highland game. Also, this was no ordinary shiny; it was the Glenmorangie Camanachd Cup Final. It was, however, a recording of the previous day's play, and it did seem to go on for ever. Then, as it ended, we moved — to Paris, where a Spaniard and a Brazilian were engaged in some distant tennis match. I think it was then on Radio Four that Blofeld used the G-word and I attempted to jam the BBC switchboard. We finally went over to Edgbaston for the last two overs.

I apologise for labouring this story, but it does have a point. From what I can gather, BBC Scotland had a schedule and was determined to stick to it. No one seems to have considered going back to the cricket (this is my guesswork) because no one thought there would be much interest north of the border in some English sport of strictly limited appeal.

I sincerely hope I am wrong about that, particularly as cricket, at club level, is hugely popular in Scotland. Many thousands more Scots play cricket than ever hit a shiny ball, and, as one of them, I can testify to the fact that interest in the Ashes series is intense. Meanwhile, Scotland has reached the world cricket finals ... Douglas Jardine was Scottish ... my case rests.

The issue, however, goes wider. With the promise of a Scottish Parliament, a keen debate has already begun about the nature of British broadcasting. Should the BBC, like the United Kingdom, devolve, giving Scotland proper autonomy? And if it does, what will viewers and listeners want in Scotland and Wales? The outcome may prove to be far more significant for the average Scot than answering the West Lothian Question or challenging the Government's White Paper.

Already Scottish Television has brought matters to a head by announcing that it is considering turning *News at Ten* in Scotland into a Scottish-based programme. The BBC in Scotland is thinking about how it would revamp the *Six O'Clock News*. Clearly, the proceedings of a Scottish Parliament, when it comes, will need special coverage. Already, there is talk of broadcasting from a mini-Millbank studio sited in Edinburgh.

Some claim that digital television will solve everything by providing separate channels for interest-groups. But this is at best a panacea, at worst condescending. The real question is whether devolution will convert the Scots to an even greater appetite for their own culture at the expense of everything else, or whether they will insist on equal access, with the English, to the best of what is available.

In a sense it is a unionist versus an independent argument, the former outward-looking, the latter domestic. Research so far has come up with one blindingly obvious response: the Scots will not be fobbed off with second best. They want access to news as fast as anyone else, they want programmes equal in quality to anything produced in the south, and they want comprehensive coverage of important issues.

Their ideal viewing is a good Scottish programme that is also enjoyed in England — *Taggart*, *Rab C. Nesbit*, *Hamish Macbeth*. But they will certainly demand more in the form of Scottish current affairs and documentaries as the political focus moves north. The BBC in London, a management-dominated, highly centralised body, will have to take a deep breath and consider a major distribution of power. Otherwise they could lose out in Scotland to rival channels prepared to make the investment.

It would be disastrous if programming were to be determined by political correctness — an assumption of what the average Scot is meant to be interested in, rather than what he wants to watch. Which is where my cricket story comes in. Producers of the future must not pander to cultural clichés or sacrifice links with England simply because they are judged to be un-Scots. That would be parochial and obtuse. They should remember that Scotland is nothing if not a diverse nation, and has always had a lively curiosity about the wider world. When the time comes, I intend to apply my own version of Norman Tebbit's cricket test to keep the broadcasters on their toes.



Going ape

AS NEIL HAMILTON and his wife Christine search forlornly for a publisher, news has broken of the first



Fry's Wilde: messianic

Gesthemane knocking back the hock and seizer while all around him told him to flee before the entrance of the soldiers.

The Dean of Lichfield, the Very Reverend Dr Tom Wright, is fascinated: "If Oscar Wilde was Jesus Christ what does that make Stephen Fry — Saint John?" Sir Peregrine Worsthorne is appalled: "In drawing the comparison, Fry debases and mocks Wilde. Still, they were both crucified."

It will be written by John Sweeney, an Observer journalist who knew the Tamon victor Martin Bell in Sarajevo and whose election coverage irritated the formidable Christine. "It kicks off with an old Zairean proverb," explains Sweeney. "The higher the monkey climbs up a tree, the more you can see its bottom."

Staged at Bedales School in Hampshire, with a view to sending their son Jake there.

Bedales, an establishment renowned for its progressive outlook rather than its academic achievements, has long groomed the children of the famous. Viscount Linley and his sister Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones are remembered fondly, but Sting's visit was still a novelty.

As the balding pop star toured the school with his wife they were mobbed by hordes of screaming schoolgirls.

"Darling," remarked Trudi, "this is just like our wedding."



Sting: back to school

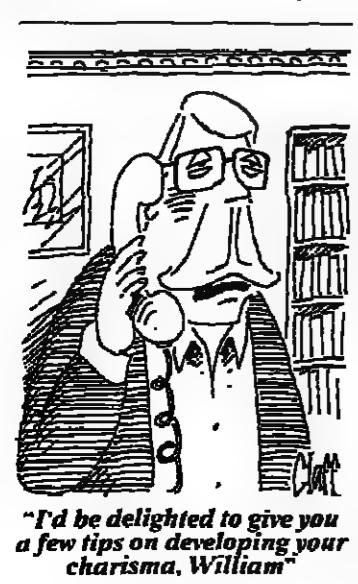
prospective parents. Now, Sting and his wife Trudi Styler have been looking at Bedales School in Hampshire, with a view to sending their son Jake there.

Bedales, an establishment renowned for its progressive outlook rather than its academic achievements, has long groomed the children of the famous. Viscount Linley and his sister Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones are remembered fondly, but Sting's visit was still a novelty.

As the balding pop star toured the school with his wife they were mobbed by hordes of screaming schoolgirls.

"Darling," remarked Trudi, "this is just like our wedding."

P.H.S.



"I'd be delighted to give you a few tips on developing your charisma, William"



CHANCELLOR'S TWILIGHT

Kohl is struggling to keep his dream alive

The editorial in the German newspaper, *Handelsblatt*, this week stretches its metaphor somewhat. The German Government, it complains, is running about "like a bunch of headless chickens, cackling over debts, privatisations, cutbacks and higher taxes" while "grasping at straws". Super-hens indeed — but what is novel here is not the strained imagery, but the tone of exasperation bordering on contempt that is suddenly everywhere to be found in German debate.

Within a few short weeks, Helmut Kohl, so long considered invincible by friend and foe alike, has suffered an extraordinary loss of authority. The coalition that he has always held together by force of will is at loggerheads — and 70 per cent of Germans have lost confidence in his Government's capacity to handle the country's finances or to arrest the continuing rapid rise in unemployment. The Chancellor has himself to blame. The damage is self-inflicted.

The proximate cause is his humiliating recent defeat at the hands of the Bundesbank in a confrontation that Herr Kohl would in past years have had the sense to avoid. The Rhinegold affair, a scheme to shrink the budget deficit by forcing through a law to revalue German reserves, seriously dented Herr Kohl's reputation not only as a prudent manager of Germany's interests but as a politician with his finger on the nation's pulse. It was a political mistake comparable to Margaret Thatcher's ill-fated poll tax, and ideological a good deal less respectable.

The underlying reason for this upheaval in the political landscape is that Herr Kohl is seen as a man driven by a single obsession, economic and monetary union, which has clouded his judgment and distorted government policy. He reinforced that impression last week. On his feet in the Bundestag to defend Theo Waigel, the German Finance Minister, against a vote of censure, he thundered his unwavering commitment to the 1999 deadline for EMU — reinforcing the impression that all stratagems are justified as means to this overriding end. He wined,

once: it was when the leader of the Greens, Joschka Fischer, taunted him that the Kohl era was ending in a *Kanzlerdämmerung*.

With the Bundesbank leading the people, Germans are increasingly demanding that the Government concentrate less on "Europe" and more on Germany's national needs. But for Germans, this is no mere adjustment of priorities. So comprehensively has Europe driven the political agenda that it amounts to the breaking of a taboo — imposed by Herr Kohl out of the conviction that the alternative would be the revival of assertive German nationalism. That is what he meant last year, when he called EMU a question of "war or peace in the 21st century".

One result is that the political debate that Germany needs to have has been muffled. Erhard's children have been encouraged to believe that they do not need to choose between social democracy and Thatcherism, that they can have a successful free market economy without deregulation. To stay competitive, Germany's most dynamic industrial leaders have been compelled to shed this illusion; one reason for rising unemployment is that they have begun radical restructuring at home and, in many cases, are shifting production abroad. By contrast, Bonn is stuck in a time warp; and that is a potent source of public unease.

The Chancellor's fractious Government may yet cobble together a compromise and meet its July 10 deadline for setting the federal budget for 1998. But that will only buy a brief respite. After the summer recess, Germany enters 12 months of almost constant elections — in Hamburg, Lower Saxony, Sachsen-Anhalt, Bavaria — leading up to the general election in September 1998. Herr Kohl has stayed on to fight this final electoral battle of his career out of fear that no successor could be trusted to put Europe and EMU first. In so doing, he shows weakness, not strength. Darkness may be slow to descend on Herr Kohl's twilight. But it is falling all the time.

TIME FOR CLARITY

Redwood's candidacy should encourage Hague's candour

The luck of Tony Blair seems boundless. Since his election there has been change in his favour in France, in Germany and now in the Conservative Party. Yesterday's preparations for the next round of Tory leadership voting have reinforced Tuesday's impression of a good result for Labour. A weak Opposition has been left less united and harder to unite around a winning platform.

"There is nothing so undignified," the Tory politician Walter Long once remarked, "as a ballot for the leadership of the great Unionist Party." Dignity has certainly been sacrificed this week. But dignity is not the greatest sacrifice. The bitterness in John Redwood's camp over the decision of Michael Howard and Peter Lilley to back William Hague is immense. Few Conservative MPs, except Mr Hague's most immediate supporters, are feeling better as a result of the vote. Most are querulous, still introspective and confused.

The way forward remains clouded. Before the party can turn to evangelising again, there is much work to be done on the message. Even if Mr Hague is now the favourite, the most successful candidacy of the Right, that of John Redwood, still counts. He should be encouraged to continue his campaign. The speed with which Peter Lilley and Michael Howard endorsed Mr Hague's candidacy was too great. They allowed his sails to blow but they have made it difficult for themselves to influence his course.

There will be many in the Conservative Party understandably anxious to bring the contest to a conclusion. The vote proved the strength of radicalism in the Tory ranks but also its persistent inability to direct that strength best. Many on the moderate Right

and centre are keen to row in behind the most congenial likely victor, Mr Hague. A caveat should still be entered. In the week before his coronation, there is still time for Tories to test him. Most of what Mr Hague has said recommends him, but, even in this long contest, he has not been drawn out sufficiently. Few are better fitted for that tutor's task than Mr Redwood. Although not the Tories' natural leader, Mr Redwood could yet be its saviour and sage.

The rapid rallying behind Mr Hague emphasises the importance of unity, but risks making that the exclusive virtue. The Tories were punished at the last election because they were a divided party. They were divided, however, because the leadership sought unity through compromise above all else and, in the wise words of Michael Howard, "endlessly splitting the difference just caused endless splits".

The real cause of division, and eventual defeat, was the lack of coherent policy and strong leadership. Mr Hague could provide both, but his campaign hitherto, although original on organisational reform, has been indistinct on policy direction. Mr Redwood's candidacy, and the potential for colleagues to join that campaign, will provide an incentive for Mr Hague to show his mettle.

It is not necessary for Mr Hague to provide his party with minute policy detail. But many Conservatives are still anxious for reassurance that Mr Hague is as impressive as he seems to Mr Lilley and Mr Howard. Mr Hague does not need to pass a purity test. That would be an arid exercise. He should simply show the same boldness in saying what he will do as leader as he has shown in fighting for the leadership.

GENERAL ISSUE

Soldier, Soldier, will you marry me?

Most armed forces fear shells and torpedoes. In the United States sex has become the more dangerous enemy. Last month the case of Lieutenant Kelly Flinn absorbed the attentions of Americans. Lieutenant Flinn, first female pilot of a B-52 nuclear bomber, was obliged to resign her commission after affairs with an enlisted man and then a civilian married to a woman officer. She was also charged with disobeying orders and lying to her commander. Her court martial was abandoned after a huge political outcry.

Two weeks ago General Joseph Ralston had been the firm favourite for the post of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff — the most senior position in the American military. His candidature has been destroyed by the revelation of adultery. That the liaison in question happened 13 years ago, involved a civilian completely unconnected with the military, and occurred while he was separated from his wife, is all deemed irrelevant. A blood sacrifice has been demanded and the General was the victim.

This whole sorry saga highlights one of the least attractive aspects of American public life — a frenzy which loses all sense of proportion and descends into a witchhunt. Only in the United States could Salem become a televised enterprise. Four years ago it was the employment of overseas nannies. Now it is adultery. Last week most of the mainstream media shamelessly

amplified the accusations against General Ralston. This week the same publications are lamenting his fall.

All of this would be but a sad curiosity were its effects not so significant. Such "scandals" have had a devastating effect on the American military. Six years ago there was a lamentable incident involving sexual harassment at a US navy event. As a result of this "Tailhook" affair, a vast cohort of officers was effectively retired or excluded from promotion simply for being in the hotel where the transgression took place. According to one authoritative estimate, more senior experience was removed from the American military as a result of Tailhook than at Pearl Harbor.

There are important issues involving the integration of women into the US armed forces that the Pentagon needs to address. Lieutenant Flinn's situation was not handled with appropriate sensitivity. The Ministry of Defence in Britain is also aware that past regulations on sexual relations are not sustainable. But on present form the American military will soon become a laughing stock. An army cannot march on political correctness. The United States front line now seems to have far more to fear from interest groups and politicians in Washington than any foreign foe. This is, as General Anthony McAuliffe succinctly argued when asked to surrender at the Battle of the Bulge, "nuts".

Lessons of Tory leadership vote

From Mr Andrew Marshall

Sir, The results of the leadership vote and the consultation exercise with all sections of the Conservative Party (reports, June 11) have demonstrated beyond question that Ken Clarke is best placed to unite the party. Opinion polls show he also commands by far the most support with the public as an attractive advocate for Conservatism.

Above all, the vote in the constituencies, confounding widespread preconceptions about the attitudes of local activists, indicates that the party's grass roots have grasped the lessons of our defeat and thought imaginatively and pragmatically about who can best lead us to recovery.

It would be quite perverse if Conservative MPs now ignored the overwhelming enthusiasm for Ken Clarke across the party and insisted on electing a leader who would be immediately hampered by a lack of moral authority. Our MPs must now listen to their supporters and rally to the candidate who has proved a winner in the party and in the country.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW MARSHALL
(Conservative candidate,
Birmingham Edgbaston, 1997).
2 Eton Rise,
Eton College Road, NW3.
June 11.

From Mr George Thomas

Sir, Nothing more clearly demonstrates Conservative MPs' inability to understand why they are so unpopular than their support for Kenneth Clarke as leader.

At the general election many voters had the impression that the Government had become arrogant and distant. That 49 Tories can still vote for a leader who is not prepared to resist the transfer of power to Europe, which can only mean more distance, more arrogance and more resentment, means they have no understanding of what is going on.

Mr Clarke simply cannot be trusted to protect our rights.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE THOMAS,
17 Campden Hill Square, W8.
June 11.

From Mr L. T. Smith

Sir, The Conservative Party is clumsily rewriting history.

First they will elect a "Michael Foot" as leader (Clarke). Then they will replace him with a "Neil Kinlock" (Porro).

Finally, in about ten years' time, they will stumble across a leader who will save the nation. But this Churchill is not on the stage yet.

Yours faithfully,
L. T. SMITH,
23 Markham House,
Kingswood Drive, SE21.
June 11.

From Mr Mark Clements

Sir, William Hague has indicated his wish to broaden the basis of electing the Tory party leader.

Presumably, in the light of Mr Clarke's outright and overwhelming success in the various secondary polls that took place prior to yesterday's vote of MPs, Mr Hague, as a man of principle, should call on his supporters to support Clarke in the second ballot.

Yours faithfully,
MARK CLEMENTS,
The Beetling Mill,
Stormontfield, Perth.
June 11.

From Mr E. H. R. Fane

Sir, Following yesterday's vote, Kenneth Clarke should be the new leader of the Conservative Party today. Surely no one could argue that the "first past the post" system, by which our MPs were so recently elected, is undemocratic?

Yours sincerely,
EDWARD FANE,
15 Kyre Road, SW11.
June 11.

Party's parties

From Mr R. E. Stubbs

Sir, Offering drinks to potential voters, as the candidates in the Conservative leadership election have done (reports, June 10), seems a good idea. Can it be extended please to the electorate in national and local elections? I'd drink to that!

Yours faithfully,
RON STUBBS,
33 Silverdale,
Barming, Maidstone, Kent.
June 11.

Still electable?

From Mr David Smethers

Sir, An outsider's view of the passion and rhetoric of our domestic politics comes in a letter from a Romanian friend.

He asks: "Now that you have chosen your new Government in Great Britain, can we have the one you didn't want?"

Yours sincerely,
DAVID SMETHERS,
Silver How, Groombridge,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
June 11.

Business letters, page 31

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Appeal for Alexandra Palace mast

From the Chairman of the Alexandra Palace Television Trust

Sir, Recent concerns regarding the Marconi archives have been allayed (letters, February 5, 10, 12; 14; report, March 26), but may we draw your readers' attention to the danger of amalgamation to the most prominent Marconi Company artefact — the television mast at the Alexandra Palace.

This structure, which in 1936 broadcast the first regular high-definition television service in the world, has been compared to Stonehenge in its importance for cultural history. Though it lost its radiating aerials — so familiar from the television newsreels of the Fifties — the steel structure has survived hurricanes and the Palace's fire in 1980.

The last Government required the BBC to sell off its transmission arm, including all its masts, which are now owned by an American-controlled company, Castle Tower Corporation. A planning application is due to be considered by Haringey Council on June 23 to remove a large section of the Alexandra Palace mast on the grounds that the attachment of new, digital radio aerials will place an unacceptable wind pressure on the mast.

As it overlooks a huge conurbation, it has been loaded with many commercial — and profitable — private aerials. Nevertheless, our advice is that it was so solidly built in 1936 that it could be suitably strengthened to accommodate the proposed radio aerials.

This trust has been formed to conserve, restore and open to the public the old television station at Alexandra Palace, to commemorate a triumph of British initiative. We have received funding from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts for a feasibility study, and intend to make a Heritage lottery bid.

The mast is the world's oldest television aerial still in use; it would be an act of vandalism to demolish part of an historic scientific instrument which was designed to the exact specifications of Baird, EMI and the Marconi Company to accommodate early television wavelengths and transmission needs. Would the nation accept this in relation to a cultural landmark?

We beg English Heritage and the new Heritage Secretary to use their powers to prevent this short-sighted folly.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE WOLFE, Chairman,
Alexandra Palace Television Trust,
20 Lansdowne Road, N10.
June 10.

Needs of mothers who stay at home

From Lady Neill, Chairman of the British Housewives' League

Sir, When the amendments to the EU Treaty are proposed at Amsterdam, pushing forward the cause of equality of treatment for men and women (letters, June 6, 7), I hope that equal attention is given to the needs of mothers with young children who wish to remain at home.

The Labour Party manifesto spoke of the importance of social stability. This is a worthy aim but it can only be achieved if we build on what is sustainable. At present we do not provide an environment in which all children can grow into mature, dependable and healthy adults.

The Government is offering state-funded childcare, but such facilities will only be available outside the home. If parents are to be held responsible for their offspring then surely they must not be discouraged from looking after them themselves. It cannot be right for the State to assume parental responsibilities if the likely consequence is that parenting becomes a forgotten art.

Institutionalising children has never been anything but a second best. If this is what women are asking for then there is something wrong with the way we are ordering society.

Yours truly,
CAROLINE NEILL, Chairman,
British Housewives' League,
8 Milborne Grove, SW10.
June 11.

Good sports

From Mr Kevin Grant

Sir, Your deeply felt leader today, "Walzing over Marilda", is triumphant but falls elegantly short of gloating. And so it should. The first law of International cricket is: "It is always too soon to feel sorry for Australia." Remember.

Yours sincerely,
KEVIN GRANT,
October Cottage,
Main Road, Old Fishbourne,
Chichester, West Sussex.
June 9.

From Mr Nicholas Elliott, QC

Sir, The Reverend Ian Gregory inquires (letter, June 10) whether anybody has perfected a TV control unit that "defeats the idiots' chorus from Test match transmission". The answer is yes. I and many others have. Turn the volume control on the television down and the Radio 4 ball-by-ball commentary on.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS ELLIOTT,
3 Verulam Buildings,
Gray's Inn, WC1.
June 10.

Thoughtful paws

From Mr P. R. Oliver

Sir, My wife and I maintain a wire-mesh feeder filled with nuts and suspended by a five-foot chain from the overhanging eaves of our cottage. These nuts are intended strictly for the birds, but recently our resident grey squirrel, unable to reach the feeder in any other way, has discovered that by balancing in the gutter he can haul it up by the chain: forepaw over forepaw.

Is this normal squirrel ingenuity, or are we unwillingly hosting a super-squirrel, aiming perhaps at starring in a drink advertisement?

Yours faithfully,
P. R. OLIVER,
Bridge Cottage, Little Petherick,
Wadebridge, Cornwall.

Cracking the code

From Mr William Holland

Sir, The label on a small bottle of Chilean wine that was served with a recent in-flight meal reads:

Bottled at PR54/AT by WI10 for Universal Wines and Spirits BL3/2P/Y. UK.

This surely would have presented a formidable challenge to Enigma.

Yours sincerely,
W. HOLLAND,
18 St John's Hill Grove, SW1.
June 10.

Fitting send-off

From Mr Frank Kilvington

Sir, In her article on changing burial customs (June 4), Grace Bradberry implies that the use of coffins as articles of furniture is a modern development.

</

THE TIMES THURSDAY JUNE 12 1997

OBITUARIES

ALEXANDER KAZHDAN

Alexander Kazhdan, Byzantine scholar, died in Washington on May 29, aged 74. He was born in Moscow on September 22, 1922.

Alexander Kazhdan would have seen no significance in the fact that he died on the anniversary of the fall of Constantinople. He was a great Byzantinist, whose vast and varied writings have profoundly influenced modern understanding of Europe's one true thousand-year empire, but he had little time for romantic mythologies either of his subject or of himself.

His life could be construed as dramatic, but for him the dramas were mere distractions. Not that he was modest. He knew his worth as a fact, and his assuredness helped him to survive. But he preferred honesty to vanity, and could be as critical of himself as of others.

Alexander Petrovich Kazhdan was born into the first fully Soviet generation: a generation schooled in the cultural xenophobia and rhetorical zealotry of high Stalinism. Some became true believers, others crafted devices to survive. Kazhdan coped. He was no dissident. In the 1930s and 1940s dissidence was plain suicide; scholarly integrity was quite perilous enough. And Kazhdan was a Jew. He was created a Jew more by anti-Semitism than by any strong personal sense of Jewish identity. Yet his career was defined by his treatment as a Jew rather than as a Russian, a Soviet citizen or a scholar.

The postwar years were the worst. In 1947, after completing his graduate studies at Moscow University, Kazhdan was — as a Jew — unemployable in the research institutions of the capital. Given the successive paranoid campaigns of scapegoat-hunting, he was barely employable in the provinces either. For a decade he held and lost a series of low-grade

teaching posts in places scarcely renowned as havens of Byzantine scholarship: Ivanovo, Tula, Velikie Luki.

Then came the thaw, and a return to Moscow. From 1956, he was at the Soviet Academy of Science's Institute of History, where, despite the niggling officiousness of the smug semi-scholars who had manipulated their way to the positions of power, he would probably have lived for the rest of his career in relative contentment. But Kazhdan's soul was more committed to Jewish identity, and in 1970 he emigrated. The resultant hostility and petty persecution persuaded Kazhdan that he must follow suit.

In February 1979 he arrived in Washington, at the Dumbarton Oaks Center for Byzantine Studies. In the Soviet Union he officially ceased to exist, to have existed. His name was taboo, even in footnotes. He did not visit his homeland again until August 1991, when Moscow hosted the international Congress of Byzantine Studies, just one week before the failed coup that signalled the end of the Soviet State.

From Ivanovo to Georgetown would for many have been an odyssey of aspiration. For Kazhdan it was accidental, unsought, and all very inconvenient. He had never asked for anything other than to get on with his work, which he did, at an astonishing rate, throughout. The flow of books and articles and reviews was almost constant and sometimes torrential: from his early work in the relatively safe field of agrarian and urban history, through the social analysis of elites, to studies of literature and authors, structures of power, culture and mentality.

It would be wrong, however, to say that he was impervious to his surroundings. On the contrary, the Soviet experience — rather than an acceptance of Soviet ideology — helped to shape his approach to



Byzantium. In the Soviet Union he saw the deep rift between presentation and substance, between rhetoric and life, between the official formulae of collective solidarity and the private tensions. For him this was Byzantium. Historians from Gibbon almost to the present had been hoodwinked by the apparent stability and traditionalism of Byzantine rhetoric.

Kazhdan was convinced that Byzantium was, instead, a dynamic, changing, even innovative society, not just the slow-burning afterglow of Old Rome. He believed that Byzantium's culture was one of individual writers and artists, not just of imitative hacks concerned only with the preservation of style. All one had to do was learn to read carefully, to

crack the cultural code. His mission (though he would not have labelled it thus) was to release Byzantium from the prison of its own self-presentation. If such claims are now close to being truisms, Kazhdan bears much of the responsibility.

A deftler of waffle by instinct and profession, Kazhdan did not waste words on tact. Editing his last and maximal opus, the elephantine *Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium*, he spiced a few egos with scribbles like "rubbish", "no", "wrong" on distinguished colleagues' carefully drafted contributions. His criticisms were not personal, though sometimes they were taken as such.

He was quite happy to be refuted, for truth mattered more than his own opinion. And he never stopped. His most recent published article was on an obscure passage in Joseph the Hymnographer. He attached a note to an offprint that he sent to a colleague: no chit-chat, no niceties of news or well-wishing simply: "Please understand that this is only a hypothesis."

Seemingly prickly individualist, he was actually a generous collaborator, puzzled that the collective presenting rituals called conferences so often take precedence in the West over real collaboration in research. In 1979, Dumbarton Oaks, under Giles Constable, was going through a difficult period of restructuring. Jerusalem lamented that it was becoming merely a research "facility". Kazhdan's presence helped to ensure the renewal of its culture as a centre of excellence, and as a community.

At Dumbarton Oaks he learnt to relax. He loved the gardens and appreciated the founders' belief that scholarship thrives in beautiful surroundings. He died at a moment of contentment, quickly, after his daily swim, beside the Dumbarton Oaks there with its own golf course, fishing rights and stables.

He is survived by his wife Musya, whom he married in 1944.

SIR RENN DAVIS

Sir Renn Davis, OBE, Judge of Appeal in Gibraltar and Chief Justice for the Falkland Islands, died from a heart attack on June 6 aged 68.

He was born on November 20, 1928.

AS CHIEF JUSTICE in Gib-

ralar between 1980 and 1986,

Renn Davis saw the start of

a significant rise in its

crime rate, reflecting the col-

ony's attractions for drug

smugglers and its growing

importance as a finance

centre. But he missed being

involved in the Rock's most

dramatic incident of the de-

cade, leaving there on the

same day that undercover

soldiers from the Special Air

Service killed three IRA

terrorists in the town centre.

Davis, who had spent most

of his career in the colonial

legal service, did not retire

completely. No sooner had he

reached for his slippers than

he was offered the part-time

appointment of Chief Justice

for the Falkland Islands, to

which were subsequently add-

ed the duties of an Appeal

Court Judge for Gibraltar and simi-

lar judicial posts for the

British Antarctic Territory, the

Indian Ocean Territory and St

Helena. He had been due to

fly to Port Stanley next month

for his second visit to the

Falklands this year.

Dermot Renn Davis was

born at Molo, amid the lush

green pastures of what were

then known as Kenya's White

Highlands. His father who

was half-French, half-Irish

and had served with the Royal

Flying Corps in the First

World War, owned a farm

there with its own golf course,

fishing rights and stables.

The plan was for Renn (the

name's origins are obscure) to

be educated at Cheltenham

College in this country. But the

ship carrying his Common

Entrance papers was sunk in

the war and his mother,

fearing that her only son

might suffer a similar fate,

sent him instead to the Prince

of Wales boarding school in

Nairobi.

He became head boy there

and won a place to read law at

Wadham College, Oxford (his

headmaster's alma mater).

University also enabled him to

indulge his lifelong passion for amateur theatricals.

Called to the Bar by the

Inner Temple in 1953, he

practised for three years in a

Nairobi law firm before being

survived by her and by his

two sisters.

He did not marry until he

was 56, although he had

known his wife Mary as a

student. Her family had been

neighbours of his uncle and

aunt in the New Forest, where

he had spent his holidays

while at Oxford. They married

in 1984, several years after her

first husband had died in a

road accident. Sir Renn Davis

is survived by her and by his

two sisters.

Li Shuxian at her husband's grave in Hebei province on China's Tomb Sweeping Day, April 5, in 1996

LI SHUXIAN

Li Shuxian, widow of China's last emperor, died in Beijing on June 9 aged 73. She was born in 1924.

THE final choice in a series of wives and concubines to the last Chinese emperor, Pu Yi, who ruled briefly from 1908 to 1911, Li Shuxian was a beneficiary of China's nostalgia for its pre-revolutionary past to which the nation had latterly inclined. But both she and her husband, who died in 1967, had enjoyed preferential treatment for some time before that.

Mao Tse-tung, for all his reputation as the Great Leader, nursed a sneaking regard for the last occupant of the Dragon Throne. When, in 1959, Pu Yi was released from prison, where he had languished since 1950 after being turned over to Chinese Communists by the Russians, Mao invited him to the with him at Zhongnanhai, Beijing's equivalent of the Kremlin. He next told his Prime Minister Chou En-lai to look after Pu Yi who was, as a result, translated from a menial job transplanting seedlings in the Beijing botanical gardens to a more congenial job as a historical researcher.

Chou was also deplored to find the former emperor a wife and, after ten introductions which taxed even the pragmatic premier's patience, Li Shuxian, a nurse twenty years his junior, and an admirably practical woman, was found acceptable. They were married in 1962. "People told him he shouldn't be so picky because he wasn't an emperor any more," Li Shuxian said in later years.

Whether the union was satisfactory to him as she evidently found it, or whether she was a shrew who nagged him mercilessly, is less certain. Impotent from sexual maturity, he was unable to give her the child for which she had always yearned. But he opened up a social life for her of a sort she could never have expected on her own, taking her to the opera and going dancing with her.

After his death, Li Shuxian, too, remained inconspicuous.

On April 5, 1995, China's annual Tomb Sweeping Day, she emerged briefly into the public eye when her husband's ashes were reburied on a hillside in Hebei province among the tombs of other

Qing dynasty emperors.

Li also had some difficult encounters during this period.

On one occasion Red Guards

ransacked her house, taking away anything that smacked of "old" Chinese culture and customs.

After his death, Li Shuxian,

too, remained inconspicuous.

On April 5, 1995, China's annual Tomb Sweeping Day,

she emerged briefly into the

public eye when her hus-

band's ashes were reburied on a

hillside in Hebei province

among the tombs of other

Qing dynasty emperors.

Li died in 1996, aged 73.

ON THIS DAY

June 12, 1854

There is still a Crystal Palace station; buses

have indicators to Crystal Palace and a

football team bears the name. Also nothing

remains of Paxton's magnificent building — a

triumph of Victorian enterprise. The palace

was burnt to the ground in November 1996.

To a delightful vision of peace among nations cemented by commerce and industry.

The aspect of Europe has changed as greatly

as that of Sydenham but while our fleets and

armies, in conjunction with those of France,

oppose themselves to warfare abroad, we do

not falter at home in the career of useful

labour. We remember that the burdens and

pains of war can best be borne by those who

most successfully study the arts of peace,

and that victory is the prize, not the prowess,

THE TIMES TODAY

THURSDAY JUNE 12 1997

NEWS

Hong Kong flying visit for Blair

■ Tony Blair is to boycott China's attempts to secure legitimacy for Hong Kong's unelected legislature at the events marking the territory's return to Beijing.

The Prime Minister will attend the midnight handover ceremony on June 30 but not the new body's inauguration, and will fly back to London almost immediately Page 1

Surrogate mothers face tighter controls

■ Laws to impose greater controls on surrogate motherhood will be considered by an independent inquiry set up by the Government yesterday after a recent series of cases that have highlighted the way existing legislation is failing to prevent its commercialisation. Tessa Jowell, the Health Minister, told the Commons that she had decided to set up the independent review because of public concern about the issue Page 1

Border progress

President Chirac of France gave a positive response last night to Tony Blair in his battle to maintain Britain's border controls at the forthcoming Amsterdam conference Page 1

House prices up

Property prices rose by more than 8 per cent nationally over the past year, with prices doubling in some parts of London Page 9

Detectives jailed

Two British private detectives working for drug companies to stop bogus firms copying their drugs were jailed for 18 months in Cyprus claiming they were victims of a sting Page 14

Australian 'genocide'

The forcible removal of Aboriginal children from their parents from 1918 to the 1960s fitted the legal definition of genocide, according to the judge heading a commission into the "stolen generation" Page 16

Marked cards

MPs may use swipe cards to cast their votes in the House of Commons in future as part of a drive to modernise some of the more archaic workings of the House of Commons Page 2

'Deserter' freed

The French authorities released Henry Tuson, a British man who was seized at the Channel Tunnel for allegedly dodging French military service Page 3

Intuitively so

Female intuition is more than just girl talk. Scientists say it is the truth: women really are better at detecting nuances and reading social situations Page 5

Rocky oil protest

Greencore have set up a base on Rockall, off northwest Scotland, and say they will stay until the Government stops oil exploration in the Atlantic Page 8

Derby fraud takes punters for a ride

■ Police are hunting a fake bookmaker who set up a pitch at the Epsom Derby and fled with an estimated £40,000 after offering favourable odds on the favourite, Entrepreneur. By the time Benny the Dip had come home at 11-1 the fraudster had gone. Punters were left with betting slips with his code-name Lucan: Lord Lucan vanished nearly 20 years ago Page 5



Prunella Scales, the actress, joins pensioners from Chelsea's Royal Hospital at a tea party held to raise funds for ex-servicemen

BUSINESS

No windfall: Nationwide would be valued at £7 billion if it opted for a stock market listing, according to a valuation conducted on behalf of the building society Page 27

BCCI biffs Fees arising from the liquidation of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) have topped \$30 million (£18.5 million), enraged creditors, and prompting calls for a government inquiry Page 27

ITV pressure: Granada increased pressure for a shake-up of regulations governing ITV, suggesting ITV would ultimately be controlled by just one player Page 27

Markets: The FTSE 100 index fell 14.8 to 4,723.8. On the foreign exchange the pound fell 27 cents to \$1.6368 Page 30

SPORT

Football: In winning the Tournoi de France, England discovered a spirit of unity and a consistency and sense of purpose in their performance Page 52

Rugby union: The rise of Carel du Plessis, once known as the "Prince of Wings", to coach the Springboks was influenced by the politics of South African rugby Page 48

Cricket: The first day of the Australians' match against Nottinghamshire was washed out, leaving them only five more days to prepare for the second Test at Lord's Page 49

Tennis: Michael Chang, the No 2 seed, was knocked out of the Stella Artois tournament at Queen's Club 6-3, 2-6, 7-6 by Scott Draper, of Australia Page 50

ARTS

Cheap thrills: Sunday is National Cinema Day when all seats will cost £1, but the week's new releases — including Whoopi Goldberg's *The Associate* — offer few enticements Page 37

Koisher laughs: On the other hand, the London Jewish Film Festival on the South Bank showcases some lost delights and an irresistible brand of humour Page 37

Marriage lines: Best of the new video this week is *The First Wives Club*, an excuse for Goldie Hawn, Diane Keaton and Bette Midler to vie for laughs Page 38

Double trouble: When a touring company of eight tackles *The Winter's Tale*, a play that lists 15 named parts, there is bound to be some confusion Page 39

FEATURES

Ulcer attack: The British Digestive Foundation is using the case history of a soap opera character to publicise its campaign about the best treatment for peptic ulceration and allied conditions Page 20

Eastern danger: Throughout the Far East hepatitis A and B are endemic, reports Dr Thomas Stüttford, who advises visitors on precautions Page 20

For Evans sake: Chris Evans talks to Mariella Frostrup about ambition, his mates and his father's death Page 21

TRAVEL

Grand hotel: Black investors own 51 per cent of South Africa's grandest new hotel, the £32 million Table Bay, opened by President Mandela Page 43

BOOKS

Undying love: Erica Wagner on Bram Stoker's *Dracula*; Anthony Storr on the legacy of Sigmund Freud Pages 40, 41

THE PAPERS

It is hard to see what Russia has to gain by the costly and time-consuming referendum that President Boris Yeltsin has proposed on whether or not to remove Lenin's embalmed body from its mausoleum in Red Square and bury it ... Lenin should be moved, but there is no rush Moscow Times

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Simon Shepherd returns as the scientist who attracts trouble, *Bliss* (ITV, 8.30pm). Review: Joe Joseph on the public and private Dr Spock Pages 50, 51

OPINION

Chancellor's twilight: Helmut Kohl has stayed on to fight this final electoral battle of his career out of fear that no successor could be trusted to put Europe, and EMU, first. In so doing, he shows weakness, not strength Page 23

Time for clarity

William Hague does not need to pass a purity test. That would be an arid exercise. He should simply show the same boldness in saying what he will do as leader as he has shown in fighting for the leadership Page 23

General issue

The United States front line now seems to have more to fear from interest groups and politicians than any foreign foe. This, in the words of General Anthony McAuliffe, is "nuts" Page 23

COLUMNS

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

One of the lessons of the Blair campaign is that elections are cultural and not intellectual events. That, I suspect, is why Oxford beats Cambridge even more regularly at Westminster than it loses at Mordake Page 22

MAGNUS LINKLATER

Should the BBC devolve, giving Scotland proper autonomy? And if it does, what will viewers and listeners want in Scotland and Wales? Page 22

PETER RIDDELL

The success of the Blair Government will largely be determined by the results of the comprehensive spending review. This was launched in a statement that was long on aspiration but short on substance Page 13

OBITUARIES

Alexander Kazhdan: Byzantine scholar; Sir René Davis, Judge of Appeal in Gibraltar; Li Shuxian, widow of China's last Emperor Page 25

LETTERS

Conservative leadership election: saving the Alexandra Palace mast; support for mothers who stay at home Page 23

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

POP: Caitlin Moran on Radiohead, as David Sinclair reviews their new album

EDUCATION: An international survey reports a decline in British primary school standards

FORECAST

■ General: England and Wales should see some sunny intervals, but western areas will be cloudier and there could be a few showers. These may also affect eastern areas later. Northern England could have more persistent rain in the evening. Scotland and Northern Ireland will be mostly cloudy with rain at times.

■ London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, Central N, NE England: dry at first with bright intervals, but becoming cloudier with rain. Wind fresh, northeasterly, becoming strong Max 13C, (55F).

■ Shetland: dry at first with bright intervals, but becoming cloudier with rain. Wind fresh, northeasterly, becoming strong Max 13C, (55F).

■ Outlook: rain or showers, but becoming dry in the North and West.

■ Pollen: low in all areas except for south Wales, the Midlands, southeast and central southern England, where it will be moderate.

WEEKEND

WEATHER

WEATHER

July 10 1997

THE TIMES

2

INSIDE
SECTION
2
TODAY

**BUSINESS**

Bronwen Maddox
on BA's link
with American
PAGE 31

**TRAVEL**

What silly
souvenirs Britons
buy abroad
PAGES 42, 43

**SPORT**

Woods sets off
in pursuit of
US Open title
PAGES 44-52

**TELEVISION
AND
RADIO**
PAGES
50, 51

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY JUNE 12 1997

Robinson calls for shake-up of ITV network

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

GERRY ROBINSON, chairman of Granada, yesterday claimed that ITV would ultimately be controlled by just one media player.

Mr Robinson described the current structure, which limits ownership to a maximum of 15 per cent of the total television audience, as "ridiculous and costly", adding that reform would be needed to allow ITV to compete effectively with Channel 4, Channel 5 and BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*.

ITV is already in the grip of a new round of consolidation, with Granada in the process of negotiating a £700 million agreed bid for Yorkshire Tyne-Tees. Scottish Media, which is paying £105 million to acquire neighbouring ITV region Grampian, said on Tuesday that it wants to loosen its ties with the ITV network.

Granada yesterday unveiled a 33 per cent increase in half-year profits, excluding tax and exceptional items, to £243 million. The company said it was reaping the benefits of its £3.9 billion takeover of Forte in January last year.

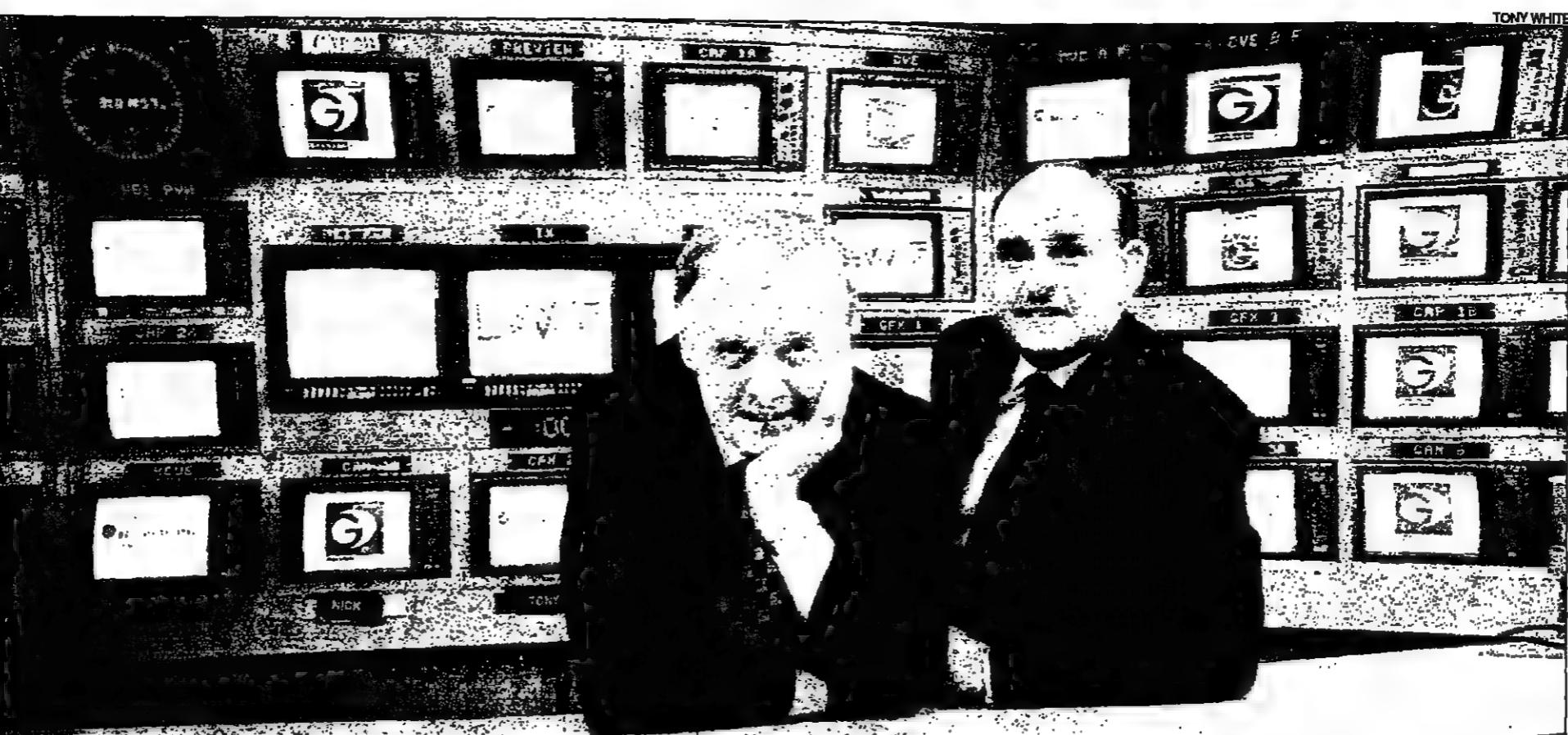
However, the shares slid 17p to 885p because of profit-taking, and disappointment about the 10 per cent rise in the interim dividend, payable on September 29, to 4.6p.

Granada recorded an exceptional profit of £23 million as the gains from its £1.3 billion asset sell-off programme outweighed a £166 million write down on the value of its Computer Services Division. The company was also forced to take an £11 million charge to cover the closure of 100 rental stores.

Mr Robinson said talks had commenced with the Savoy Hotel Group over the sale of Granada's 68 per cent stake, but that the company is in no rush because the value of the stake is increasing. He added that there would be further exclusive disposals in the next few months, but that the bulk of the Forte sales had been completed.

Profits in the media division rose 13 per cent to £89 million, boosted by a 7 per cent rise in ITV net advertising revenue. Granada said it did not want to demerge its media interests at this point but this could be considered in the future.

Commentary, page 29



TV times a changing: Gerry Robinson, chairman, left, and Charles Allen, chief executive, are in the process of negotiating a £700 million agreed bid for Yorkshire Tyne-Tees

Nationwide worth '£2,000 a member'

By CAROLINE MERRELL

NATIONWIDE'S members would benefit from a windfall of nearly £2,000 on conversion or takeover, according to the building society's own calculation about its potential value.

The figure, given by Nationwide yesterday, will add to pressure from members to convert, despite opposition from the board of the UK's biggest building society.

Nationwide, which is advised by Goldman Sachs, the investment bank, claims that a bidder would have to pay at least £7 billion if it were to make a successful takeover.

Brian Davis, Nationwide chief executive, said that, if an approach was made, it was the board's duty to consider it. However, he added: "Our size would make us quite difficult to swallow."

Fifteen members are standing for election to the Nationwide board, including Michael Hardern, a butler, who runs an organisation called Members for Conversion. If elected, the five will press the board of 12 to follow the Halifax, Alliance & Leicester, Woolwich and Northern Rock down the conversion route.

Mr Davis has admitted that

last year, Nationwide un-

derlined its commitment to

mutuality by offering mem-

bers a £200 million package

of benefits in the form of higher

savings rates and lower mort-

gage rates. This philosophy

was reflected in the society's

annual results announced yes-

terday. Profits fell 40 per cent

to £314 million (£520 million).

The society's strategy of offer-

ing a mortgage rate that is

less than the variable rates off-

ered by converting societies

and the banks helped to push

Nationwide's share of the new

mortgage market to 11.1 per

cent, compared with 1.2 per

cent the previous year. Gross

advances were £6.5 billion, ag-

ainst £4.3 billion in 1995-96.

Provisions for bad debt more

than halved to £49.5 million

(£125 million); this was put

down to the general improve-

ment in the housing market.

Assets grew 7.8 per cent to

£2.4 billion (£2.2 billion), while

retail savings totalled £28 bil-

lion (£27 billion).

Nationwide said much of

the new money came from

converting societies with cus-

tomers now free to move their

savings. The society took £700

million in new savings last

month, estimating that about

£80 million of this came from

Alliance & Leicester alone.

The society said thousands

of new accounts were being

opened each day by customers

fleeing the converting societ-

ies, where savings rates have

fallen. Nationwide offers 6.4

per cent interest on its postal

account for balances of £500.

Halifax's highest rate at this

level is 3 per cent.

Voting forms for the soci-

ety's three million members go

out today. The AGM, where

the result of the vote will be

known, is planned for July 24.

PETER THRELFALL

Brian Davis says the board has a duty to consider approaches

Commentary, page 29

FEES arising from the liqui-

dation of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) have topped \$300 million, enraging creditors and prompting calls for a govern-

ment inquiry.

Deloitte & Touche, the BCCI liquidator in the UK, was paid

£1.1 million last year, taking

total fees to the firm to \$219 million.

A further \$94.5 million has

been spent on legal fees, which

are expected to rise sharply

because of impending legal

action. The Bank of England is

among those to face legal

action over the BCCI collapse.

Keith Vaz, MP for Leicester

East, is calling for a select

committee inquiry into fees

paid to Deloitte & Touche. He

wants the firm to respond to

creditors' concerns at an open

meeting and seeks assurances

on future payments to credi-

tors, saying at least \$635 mil-

lion is now available for distri-

bution.

BCCI creditors received a first

dividend of 24.5 per cent last

December and have been paid

out to expect a further payout

of at least 10 per cent.

Mr Vaz said: "I am very

concerned at the level of these

fees, especially as there is no

clear indication on the timing

of a second dividend." He led a

delegation of creditors to see

Nigel Griffiths, the Consumer

Affairs Minister, on Tuesday,

saying that fees arising from

litigation were set to double in

the next five years.

The figures were calculated

in January and are disclosed

in a report to the Department of Trade and Industry. BCCI was

shut down by the Bank of England in July 1991, leaving debts of more than £10 billion.

Abbas Gokal, whose Gulf Group stripped off BCCI, was sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment last month at the Central Criminal Court. Civil action against Gokal and his associates is continuing.

Deloitte & Touche yesterday

defended its record, saying

that fees had tailed off sharply

in recent years. It conceded, however, that legal fees were

set to rise as the emphasis

shifted to the courts.

Christopher Morris, of

Deloitte & Touche, the joint

liquidator of BCCI, said: "We

have seen the cost-to-recovery

ratio continue to fall in 1996.

We will continue in our efforts

to maximise cost-efficient re-

coveries in order that payment

to creditors can be made as

quickly as possible."

Pacificorp may table Energy offer soon

By OLIVER AUGUST

PACIFICORP, the US utility, will wait for a signal from today's meeting between the electricity companies and John Battle, the Energy Minister, before proceeding with its £3.6 billion bid for The Energy Group. An offer could be tabled as early as tomorrow.

Mr Battle is consulting the regional electricity companies on developing competition in the sector and could give the first clues on the windfall tax. This issue threatens to overshadow the bid and has kept Pacificorp's offer price below some analysts' expectations.

Pacificorp is said to be aiming to pay a 20 per cent premium over Wednesday's closing share price for Energy, which owns Britain's biggest electricity distributor, valuing shares at 641p. Yesterday they were at 641p.

The shares of other electricity companies were also boosted by the bid talks, revealed by Energy last night. Southern rose from 16p to 43p and Scottish Hydro from 400p to 421p. They are seen as the most likely other bid targets. Analysts said Pacificorp might pay a special dividend as part of a takeover deal. The Energy Group cancelled yesterday's interim results announcement.

Mr Battle will have little reason to block a takeover on competition or regulatory grounds. But the way he responds will be seen as a guide to future takeover decisions by investors.

Hanson reprise, page 28
G

Hanson and Imperial granted FTSE reprieve

By JASON NISSE

HANSON GROUP and Imperial Tobacco yesterday survived the cut that would have excluded them from the FTSE 100 index, despite being the 101st and 103rd largest quoted companies in the UK respectively.

The decision of the Stock Exchange's FTSE UK Indices Committee was taken because the market value of the two groups had not fallen enough for the committee to be convinced they would not be pushing to be included at the next review in September. It was good news for Lord Hanson, who faced the indignity of seeing his name disappear from the FTSE 100 for the first time.

since the group was created. Had Imperial and Hanson, largely a building materials company these days, been dropped from the FTSE 100, many of the index funds run by institutional investors would in all likelihood have sold their stakes, so cutting their value further.

As it stands, the Hanson empire has lost nearly £2.8 billion in value since January 30 last year, when Lord Hanson announced his intention to break the company into four parts. At that time Lord Hanson said the break-up would enhance the value of the empire, which was then valued at nearly £1 billion.

The rump of Hanson is currently valued at £2.02 billion; Imperial at £2.05 billion; Millenni-

um, the chemicals business listed in the US, at £910 million; and yesterday's leap in the price of The Energy Group, following PacificCorp's bid approach, puts its market value at £3.33 billion. This makes the old group worth £8.21 billion now it is in four parts. For every old Hanson share, priced at 210p on January 30 last year, the current value is a mere 158p. The prospects for investors seeing this gap narrowed substantially do not look good, even if PacificCorp's £3.6 billion bid for Energy goes through.

Hanson itself is not too badly placed. It can take advantage of the resurgence in the UK building industry because of its ownership of London Brick. However, many building mate-

rials analysts feel that most of this hope is already reflected in the share price.

Imperial has had a rocky run since it floated. Though it does not have a substantial US business, the £30 billion deal being brokered by the Clinton administration to settle all outstanding tobacco litigation in America has not helped its cause. Millennium may be a good business. But it was floated with £1.4 billion worth of debts, which will continue to hold it back for some time. Even takeover bids for the remaining three parts — which was the subject of the merger — are unlikely to bring the sum of the parts back to the value of the whole before the process started.

Jobless fall puts total at lowest for seven years

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

UNEMPLOYMENT is now falling at up to 35,000 a month, the Government said yesterday when it announced the latest figures showing a drop in the number of people without work of only half that total.

Seasonally adjusted claimant unemployment dropped in May by 18,400 to 1,636,000, a much lower decrease than City forecasters had been predicting.

Whitehall officials said that the new level marked the first time claimant unemployment had been unaffected by changes to the benefit regime since the introduction of the jobseeker's allowance last autumn.

The latest fall — which included an increase in unemployment of 1,100 for women, offset by a 19,500 decline among men — took the total to its lowest level for seven years.

At 5.8 per cent of the

workforce, claimant unemployment has now fallen 530,000 over the past year and is 1.3 million lower than its near three million peak in December 1992.

The figures prompted a clash in Whitehall. Statisticians at the Office for National Statistics, which publishes the jobless data, said that they still could make no estimate of the trend in monthly unemployment.

While they accepted that it was now higher than the 15,000 to 20,000 fall it was estimating when the jobseeker's allowance started, they could put no figure on it now and would not be able to do so until later in the year.

But the Department for Education and Employment said that the unemployment figures showed a healthy improvement.

While the trend was "confused in some respects", it said that taking all the indicators together, the underlying fall was currently 30,000 to 35,000 per month.

Unadjusted unemployment fell 67,465 to 1,620,496, while employment rose by 86,000 in the first quarter of this year to 26.2 million, according to the workforce in employment series. Full-time employment rose, but part-time work fell.

The Prince's Trust, the Prince of Wales's organisation that seeks to help young people, will say today that the Government's jobs programme is threatened by lack of basic skills.

Pointing up severe skill problems among young people, the trust and the independent Employment Policy Institute will say in a report that half a million youngsters are now "suffering serious distress" in the current job market.

Wiseman, based in East Kilbride, has about 75 to 80 per cent of the fresh milk market in Scotland after its

Alan Wiseman, chairman of Robert Wiseman Dairies, which aims to expand south

Wiseman up to £11.9m

By ADAM JONES

ROBERT WISEMAN Dairies, Scotland's biggest milk supplier, has marked its fifth year with record earnings.

The company's pre-tax profits rose to £11.9 million in the year to March 29, up from £8.6 million. Turnover increased by more than 30 per cent to £192.9 million.

Wiseman, based in East Kilbride, has about 75 to 80 per cent of the fresh milk market in Scotland after its

purchase of Scottish Pride's milk interests earlier this year. Their reorganisation involved a £360,000 charge and an undertaking to the Office of Fair Trading that prices charged to Scottish customers would be regularly reported to the watchdog.

Margins declined in the second half of the year as a result of a decline in the selling prices of bulk cream and liquid milk. Wiseman said that a forecast reduction

in raw milk prices from farmers has helped to offset this now.

The company has purchased an additional 7.4 acres at its Manchester dairy and intends to expand its presence south of the border. Capital expenditure is planned at more than £30 million this year.

A final dividend of 2.35p, up from 2.1p, is due to be paid on September 25, making a total of 3.5p (3.1p) for the year.

The teams — known as the Concorde agreement — 47 per cent of the annual TV revenues will go to the teams for each of the next five years. The revenues were £200 million last year.

Out of the rest, Formula One pays a levy with the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), the governing body, and its expenses, leaving profits that reached £85 million last year.

The teams will now share a 10 per cent stake in Formula One when it floats, the FIA another 10 per cent and 30 per cent will be held by Mr Ecclestone and his wife. The remaining 50 per cent will be offered for sale in the flotation.

The Concorde agreement has yet to be signed by all the teams, as many of them are travelling to Canada for the next round of the Grand Prix.

Analysts are still concerned about the future of the TV revenues, which are expected to grow with pay-per-view TV.

However tests of pay-per-view

in Germany have been disappointing and a Frankfurt court ruling on the televising of European truck racing may also hit Formula One.

Expro has Mexican ambition

By CARL MORTISHED

EXPRO International, the oilfield services company, is continuing to expand worldwide with a push into the Gulf of Mexico, where it is selling its subsea well technology.

Expro's pre-tax profit rose by 24 per cent, to £17.8 million, in the year to March after a 28 per cent rise in turnover, to a record £105 million. The dividend for the year rises by 14 per cent, to 8p, after a 20 per cent rise in earnings per share to 21.2p. The final dividend is 5.35p.

Expro sells drilling technology to oil companies, specialising in sub-sea well completion and maintenance, a technology in high demand from companies engaged in deep-water exploration. Revenues grew 14 per cent in the UK, which still accounts for more than a third of the business. Expro's continental European business enjoyed a boost in The Netherlands from increased drilling activity.

Expro is making a push in the deep-water Gulf of Mexico and has secured a contract with BP to work in water depths of 3,500ft. Turnover in Africa and the former Soviet Union was up by 63 per cent.

Tempus, page 30

ASB to curb 'misleading' smoothing of accounts

By ROBERT BRUCE

PROPOSED financial reporting rules, to further restrict companies from using the "smoothing" of profits and losses when times get tough, are published today.

The Accounting Standards Board's (ASB) financial reporting exposure draft 14 restricts the use of provisions by which companies fudged profits away during good times, only to release them unused to boost their profit and loss accounts at a later date. Companies would now have to prove they had an obligation

to the expenditure they are providing for, rather than simply an intention. Sir David Tweedie, ASB chairman, said: "All too often the provision is wildly excessive and conveniently finds its way back to the profit and loss account in a later period. This misleading practice needs to be stopped."

The ASB has also issued financial reporting exposure draft 15 on impairment of fixed assets and goodwill, which attempts to bring order to the value of assets. Companies argue, for example, that as they

enter recession the value of their property is affected temporarily. Shareholders only discover the true state of their assets later. The proposals insist on an annual review.

Isobel Sharp, technical partner at Arthur Andersen said:

"What the ASB has taken away with one hand it has given back with the other — it has taken away manoeuvres on provisions, but allowed manoeuvres on depreciation."

Commentary, page 29

Accountancy, page 32

Japanese prosecutors raid retailer's headquarters

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN TOKYO

TOKYO prosecutors yesterday raided the headquarters of Jusco Co, a major Japanese retailing chain, only 24 hours after its president was arrested for alleged previous links to a racketeer payoff scandal involving Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank (DKB), one of the country's leading commercial banks.

There was no suggestion that Jusco was involved in the scandal, but the string of actions by prosecutors tarnished the image of the nation's third biggest supermarket operator in terms of sales and hit its shares on the Tokyo stock exchange.

Jusco has a 15 per cent interest in Laura Ashley, the UK fashion and fabrics retailer, with whom it operates a joint venture in Japan. Jusco also has alliances with two American companies, Talbots Inc and Sports Authority Inc.

A spokesman for Jusco said that three officials from the prosecutors' office had entered the company's headquarters in Makuhari, near Tokyo, in

the morning. On Tuesday, four former DKB executives, including Kenji Tanaka, now president of Jusco, were arrested and half of the 40 board members at the bank resigned.

Prosecutors said that they arrested the former DKB executives, who were responsible for screening the bank's loans for irregularities, on suspicion of making illicit loans to a sokaiya racketeer. Sokaiya extorted money by threatening to disrupt shareholders' meetings.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

KPMG confident as fee income rises 13%

KPMG, the only major accountancy firm to be externally audited, saw gross fee income rise 13 per cent to £374.8 million (£332.7 million) in the six months to March 31. Income from management consultancy grew 30 per cent to £73 million, while corporate finance and transaction services grew 20 per cent, buoyed by merger and acquisitions activity. Tax advisory work was up 14 per cent, but the mainstream audit and accounting services rose just 4 per cent.

Colin Sharman, senior partner, said: "Growth in all sectors has been good and our management consultancy has strongly returned to growth after a disappointing performance in the first part of last year. The arrival of a new government should act as a further stimulus for consultancy work, as companies and government departments work out new strategies for the next century." KPMG recently won the worldwide audits of LucasVarity and Crédit Suisse, and has been confirmed as auditor of the merged Granada Forte.

Windfall appeal

BRISTOL WATER HOLDINGS is appealing to the Government to be spared the windfall tax on the grounds that it has never benefited from government aid afforded to its peers. The company, which has always been in the private sector, returned pre-tax profits of £13.9 million (£12.1 million) on sales of £67.3 million for the year to March 31. This was a profit margin of 20 per cent, against the industry average of 30 per cent. Earnings were 142p (124p) a share and a final dividend of 36.35p is due October 1, making a total of 52p (45.5p).

Leigh back in black

LEIGH INTERESTS, the waste disposal company, has returned to the black after its £15 million restructuring plan left the slimmed-down group with a profit of £7.12 million against a £9.56 million loss last time. On an underlying basis, profits were 10.4 per cent ahead after sharp progress in the clinical and chemical divisions. The company reduced its debt by £4.4 million to £54 million, taking gearing down to 76 per cent. Earnings were 7.2p a share (15p loss) and a final dividend of 2.685p, due on October 10, holds the total at 9.15p.

Woolwich raises rate

THE Woolwich Building Society, which will become a bank next month when it floats on the stock market, has raised its interest rate by 0.35 points to 7.95 per cent. The rise will take immediate effect for new borrowers, but existing borrowers will not be asked to pay the higher rate until June 19. The Woolwich is following the example of its rivals, Halifax and Abbey National, who both increased their interest rates last Friday in the wake of the 0.25 point rise in base rates to 6.5 per cent.

NU dealing details

NORWICH UNION has announced that the share dealing services to enable members to buy and sell shares in the company will be available from Monday, June 16, the day of flotation. Four firms of brokers will be involved: NatWest Bank, Barclays Stockbrokers, Cazenove and Davy Stockbrokers. All will deal on an execution-only basis. Norwich Union members whose shares are held in the Norwich Union Share Account will be able to deal only through these providers.

Denmans advances

DENMANS ELECTRICAL, which sells electrical fittings to smaller trade buyers, lifted pre-tax profits to £1.96 million (£1.45 million) at the halfway stage after a turnaround at its decorative lighting division. It said patchy demand for wholesale and general lighting would mean redundancies. Tibelec, bought two months ago, is not expected to make a significant contribution before winter. Earnings were 7.39p (5.89p), and an interim dividend of 0.7p (0.65p) is due on August 7.

Porter Chadburn rises

PORTER CHADBURN, the international labels producer, returned an 11 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £4.6 million in the year to March 28. The company acquired Double S Systems and Stampiton, which make sticky labels, as part of its move to change from a conglomerate into a focused labels business. Earnings were 3.15p (3.4p) a share. The final dividend of 0.5p per share, due on August 28 and the first for three years, makes a total of 0.75p (nil).

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sales
Australia S	2.25	2.08
Austria Sch	20.88	19.12
Bahrain Ft	1.55	1.52
Canada S	2.353	2.207
Cyprus Cyp	0.877	0.810
Croatia Kr	11.22	10.40
Denmark Kr	1.91	1.81
Egypt Mil	2.91	2.73
France Fr	2.95	2.73
Greece Dr	4.71	4.25
Hong Kong \$	1.03	1.05
Iceland Icl	1.27	1.07
Ireland Pt	1.18	1.25
Italy Lira	5.89	5.25
Japan Yen	168.00	179.50
Malta	0.650	0.600
New Zealand \$	3.02	3.00
Norway Kr	1.23	1.10
Portugal Esc	254.00	275.50
R Australia \$d	1.00	1.00
Spain Pta	246.00	250.50
Sweden Kr	13.45	12.92
Switzerland Fr	2.50	2.25
UK £	1.73	1.70
USA \$	1.73	1.70

Rates for small denominations banking only as supplied by Barclays, Diners Club, NatWest and Standard Chartered. Rates apply to transfers of £100 or more. Rates as at 12 noon yesterday.

If you're a frequent flyer, this Card

THE TIMES THURSDAY JUNE 12 1997

BUSINESS NEWS 29

BUSINESS ROUNDUP
PMG confident as
e income rises by
13%

indfall appeal

high back in black

unwich raises

U dding details

chniques advance

everywhere

rs raid
nters

Mutuality may be a centuries-old tradition but until the middle of this decade, it was an institution that few saw as worth defending. Then came the carpetbaggers and, in their wake, those prepared to fight for the principles on which building societies were founded.

It was November 1994 when the Halifax, founded in 1853, announced its plans to become a bank, with customers and profits rather than members and old ideals. The defection of the mightiest mutual suddenly made mutuality worth protecting. There was an outbreak of enthusiasm for the system under which an institution is owned by its savers and borrowers, the members. Chief executives of building societies who had never previously uttered the word, waxed lyrical about the shared delights of mutuality.

The Nationwide, founded in 1848, was one of the societies to launch a mutuality reward scheme, combining reduced mortgage rates and enhanced savers' rates. These packages are designed to rival the windfalls being distributed by the Halifax and other converting societies. But it does not take a consulting room of psychologists to discover that cash in hand, or an easily redeemable share certificate, has more consumer appeal than

sensible long-term benefits. The improved savers' rates are appreciated by those who have already received their Halifax and Alliance & Leicester payouts, but those who failed to cash in on those windfalls tend to feel that they too are due a payout.

Some 10,000 savers are opening accounts each day at the Nationwide and the betting is that many are not wowed so much by the generous rates as by the prospect of Nationwide joining the demutualisers.

And today's revelation that they might expect around £2,000 apiece if Nationwide sacrificed its mutual status is likely to louden the clamour from the unashamed bounty hunters.

Naturally, once the windfall has been shaken out of the converting societies, custom tends to drift away. At present the mass desertion of customers seems to be of little concern to the converting societies. They simply allow their margins to widen, charging more to borrowers and paying less to savers. The aim is to protect shareholders; the irony is that many of them will be footing the bill.

At some stage, some well-intentioned individuals will no doubt spot the need for a small, friendly, organisation, offering loans to local people with money raised from local people. The idea could turn into a movement and spread across the country. It could attract the savings of those who fear that there is not room for all these banks to succeed.

And here's to you Mr Robinson

Gerry Robinson has enjoyed being an hotelier. Now he fancies being a real media mogul. All he lacks is the fat cigar if he is to stand alongside the greats of the entertainment industry.

Television channels — he has them: TV programmes — he makes them: Golden Roses — he

A mutual admiration society



COMMENTARY by our City Editor

wins them; party political broadcasts — he stars in them.

The Forte takeover was last year's deal and already the figures show it to have been a beauty. Now, media is where Mr Robinson is concentrating his attentions and focusing that of his highly effective chief executive, Charles Allen.

Yesterday

the message from the company oozed with confidence, and half-year profits up by a third provided ample justification. The Granada share price has underperformed the market by 7.5 per cent over the last year as investors have been sceptical about the company's ability to squeeze the Forte assets.

But the hotel sales have come through and, because of his refusal to be stamped into speedy disposals, the prices have been better than even the optimistic Mr Robinson had

anticipated. What is perhaps even more surprising is the apparent willingness of the travelling public to pay the increased prices that the Little Chef has been cheekily demanding.

It remains to be seen whether Mr Robinson's blarney can extricate Granada from its position at the Savoy, but in the meantime, he can at least enjoy the increased profits that are being generated there.

Now the thing to concentrate on is entertainment. Cracker, the overweight psychologist who helps out police with their inquiries, has now been turned into a politically acceptable series for the United States sensibilities.

Granada is the first UK production company to have been commissioned to make a series for US television. Mr Robinson is thrilled.

Then there is pay TV moving

along, the takeover of Yorkshire Television, and the bid for the UK digital terrestrial franchise, as a one third shareholder in British Digital Broadcasting. This is mogulsom for sure.

What was it that Basil Fawlty, aka John Cleese, said about him being an upstart caterer?

Big bath goes out with the bathwater

Sir David Tweedie is back on form in the Accounting Standards Board's latest reform proposals. They tackle some of the last of the glaring abuses that spawned his appointment and which engage his moral zeal most enthusiastically.

Having banned most of the worst manipulations used to make takeovers painless, the board is tackling dodgy practices used to soften the impact of recessions or poor trading. Out will go "big bath" provisions that have been used by some of the top corporate names to dress up the costs of trimming businesses or routine efficiency gains as a global restructuring, provided

for maybe years in advance and therefore flattering profits faster than they really benefit. Out too go some of the tricks of the property and resources industries, which allowed companies to claim that "temporary" cuts in the value of assets need not be counted.

The result, as with so many of Sir David's reforms, is to show what is really happening to a business in that accounting year. Such realism inevitably makes profits more erratic at a time when global investors who paint by numbers want flesh-and-blood companies to be as lifeless as a government bond.

Sir David can help investors and analysts to get more meaningful information. But if users of accounts do not want to know the unvarnished truth, reformers are wasting their time.

Chipping away

SIR Chips Keswick was in bullish mood, brushing off Hambros' difficulties like crumbs from the tea table. But with Regent Pacific unlikely to maintain its unusually diplomatic silence for much longer, the CWS affair hanging over it and up to half of its profits coming from estate agency and the sale of housing-related financial services, Hambros has lost a little of the merchant banking cachet Sir Chips likes to embody.

Classic fm helps GWR to play a happier note

BY ERIC REGULY

A TURNAROUND at Classic fm and the sale of loss-making overseas businesses helped to double the earnings of GWR, the commercial radio group that floated in 1994.

Pro-forma earnings in the year ended March 31 were £11.9 million (£5.5 million) on turnover of £63.8 million, up 63 per cent. The figures include a profit of £4.5 million on disposals and the £1 million cost of the company's failed bids for two foreign radio operations. Pro-forma earnings per share were 8.9p, compared with 6.3p.

GWR reported pro-forma figures because it has changed its financial year end from September to March. Pre-tax profits in the 18 months to March were £14.3 million.

The group bought full control of Classic fm in a deal worth £71.5 million last year. The station moved into profit in the autumn and earnings are expected to improve as national advertising sales pick up momentum. The sale of the Swedish version of Classic fm and the merger of its Dutch radio station have stemmed substantial overseas losses. GWR will probably sell its Finnish business this year.

In Britain, GWR is juggling its portfolio in an effort to replace loss-making stations with profitable ones. Yesterday it announced the sale of 96.6 FM in St Albans to Essex Radio for £725,175.

Ralph Bernard, chief executive, said GWR plans to launch digital radio services next year. He said: "The jury is out as to whether digital radio will be a huge success or a non-event."

A final dividend of 1.25p is to be paid on August 4, making the pro-forma dividend 2.78p, up from 2.34p.

Commentary, this page

Tempus, page 30

British Land kept on right track by Broadgate values

By CARL MORTISHED

A BOOST to values at the Broadgate office complex in the City and office developments in Dublin helped to keep British Land's portfolio on the upward track.

The Liverpool Street site, acquired for £1 billion two years ago, accounted for a large portion of the uplift in British Land's portfolio, which lagged behind the 8 per cent growth rate reported by Land Securities last month.

British Land's properties gained 5.9 per cent in value in the year to March, with the City office portfolio, the largest part of the group, scoring a 6.9

per cent gain. John Weston Smith, finance director, said Broadgate was the largest component of the City portfolio and its rate of growth reflected the 6.9 per cent average. Thanks to its high gearing, the property group's net asset value per share leapt from 426p to 487p, a 14 per cent gain from the property assets which, including joint ventures, are now valued at £5.1 billion.

Pre-tax profits were ahead of expectations, gaining 47 per cent to £91 million. The profits advance included a £7.1 million gain from property trad-

ing while net rents rose 28 per cent to £260 million. The company is raising the dividend for the year to 9p, up from 8.55p last year.

Mr Weston Smith said that sales of properties from the GUS portfolio were achieving valuations at a surplus to acquisition cost. British Land entered into a £900 million joint venture in February with the retailer to extract value from a portfolio of 982, mainly retail, properties.

British Land's average interest bill is set to fall from 8.46 per cent at the financial year end to 7.96 per cent after the receipt of proceeds from its Eurobond issue next week. Balance sheet gearing is expected to fall from a current level of 99 per cent to 78 per cent after the expected conversion of the 6 per cent irredeemable bonds into preference shares.

The company's retail portfolio gained 6 per cent, with a 14.7 per cent uplift in retail warehouses. Supermarkets performed less well, gaining only 3.4 per cent during the year but the company expects to achieve some £29 million of extra rent from guaranteed uplifts over the next four years. Overall, the net yield on British Land's portfolio remained at 7.1 per cent while the yield on current rental values fell to 8 per cent from 8.5 per cent last year.

The company has received planning consent for the redevelopment of the Great Eastern Hotel at Liverpool Street in a joint venture with Arcadian International and Conran Holdings, the design and restaurant group.

Tempus, page 30

Mansfield Brewery plans expansion

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

MANSFIELD BREWERY yesterday said that it would raise capital expenditure by a third to £30 million this year.

The company, which owns a total of 209 managed pubs in its 52-strong estate, said that it hoped to open 20 new branded outlets.

A strong performance from the retail pub division helped Mansfield to increase pre-tax profits 13 per cent to £20.8 million in the year ended March 29.

Profits in the retail division increased by 15 per cent because of improved cost controls and increased amusement game income. Beer volumes rose 6.5 per cent, with the successful launch of Mansfield

Smooth Bitter and improved contract brewing sales. On-trade volumes rose 1.7 per cent, while the regional market saw a decline of 2.5 per cent.

Overall turnover increased 7 per cent to £55.8 million. After a management review, Richard Chadburn will step down as operations and personnel director but will continue as a non-executive director.

Sir David White, chairman, said that current trading is in line with expectations. The total dividend was increased by 18.6 per cent to 7p. A final dividend of 4.5p is due to be paid on August 13. The shares were unchanged at 352½p.



Ralph Bernard, left, and Patrick Taylor, deputy chief executive and finance director, plan to go digital next year

Hambros counts Co-op cost

By ROBERT MILLER, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

SUPPORTING Andrew Regan's failed bid for the Cooperative Wholesale Society (CWS) may have cost Hambros Bank up to £5 million.

Hambros, which yesterday unveiled a £44.1 million rise in pre-tax profits, to £64.7 million, in the year to March 31, said £9.2 million had been used to cover exceptional items. These included rationalisation costs of about £4.5 million and "a provision for the costs of the CWS matter", said Sir Chips Keswick, chief executive.

On the CWS affair, Sir

any future court action, subpoenaing all senior Hambros management involved in the failed bid, including Sir Chips.

The company's star performer was Hambo County-wide, the estate agent in which the bank has a 52 per cent stake; it contributed profit of £30.8 million, against a £3.9 million loss the previous year.

Operating profits from banking fell to £20.4 million, from £30.7 million, although bad-debt provisions were cut to £10.2 million (£36.2 million).

Sir Chips said that Ham-

bros, which left its dividend for the year, payable on August 26, unchanged at 7.5p, was committed to staying an independent merchant bank.

Commenting on Regent Pacific, the Hong Kong fund manager that owns nearly 4 per cent of Hambros and has in the past criticised its management, Sir Chips said: "We treat all our shareholders, including Regent, in the same way and everyone is wholly entitled to their opinion."

Sir Chips said that Ham-

Commentary, this page

TURBOCHARGE YOUR BUSINESS WITH MITSUBISHI.

In business, it's not keeping up that matters. It's staying ahead. And the Apricot VS550 from Mitsubishi is one PC that will have you storming ahead of the field.

It's based on the fastest of Intel's new generation Pentium® Processors with MMX™ technology, the 200MHz.

Compared to Pentium Processors without MMX, this delivers a performance boost of up to 20% across all applications and up to a staggering 60% on the new generation of MMX technology enabled applications (Intel's Benchmark tests).

But, as everyone knows, it takes more than a hot processor to make a fast PC and you should see for yourself how the Apricot motherboard optimises the processor's performance benefits right across the system.

Especially with 32Mb of RAM and 15" Mitsubishi DiamondScan colour monitor included in the price. So call us today and give your business a boost.

Intel 200MHz Pentium® Processor with MMX™ technology

32Mb RAM as standard

High Performance 2.1Gb Quantum HDD

Integrated 64-bit ATI graphics

256Kb Pipeline burst L2 cache

DMI management features

Windows '95

3 Year free warranty (1st year on-site)

15" Mitsubishi DiamondScan colour monitor included

£1,299.99 (ex VAT)

0800 212 422

CALL NOW FOR AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

Web address: <http://www.apricot.co.uk/officetop-offer.htm> e-mail address: bottomline@apricot.mse.com

The Intel Inside Logo and Pentium are registered trademarks and MMX is a trademark of Intel Corporation. Prices and specifications are correct at time of going to press. E+OE.

MMX™ TECHNOLOGY FROM INTEL

INTEL

INTEL

INTEL

INTEL

INTEL

INTEL

INTEL

apric

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Banking newcomers lend weight to top 100 players

HALIFAX and the Alliance & Leicester, newcomers to the market, have taken their places among the top 100 companies.

The Halifax, 51p easier at 750p yesterday, enters the FTSE 100 at number eight with a capitalisation of £18.5 billion, alongside Barclays, up 5p at £12.7, and NatWest Bank, down 18p at 780p. The Alliance & Leicester, 4p off at 619p, enjoys a price tag of £9.3 billion.

Their promotion will serve to increase the weighting of the financial sector in the top 100 index, which at the end of May was 23.0 per cent. This figure will rise considerably again when both the Woolwich and Norwich Union take their places as constituents. All four companies are certain to attract the powerful index tracking funds.

The two companies dropping out of the index yesterday to make way for the banks were Burton Group, 4p off at 129p, and Smith & Nephew, 3p better at 172p. But it proved a close run thing for two other poor performers, Hanson, 1p firmer at 317p, and Imperial Tobacco, which was demerged from Hanson last year and closed 4p firmer at 397p.

Those companies that just missed out on promotion included Williams, 1p firmer at 315p, Compusec Group, 1p easier at 702p, MEPC, unchanged at 520p, Anavescap, 6p better at 343p, and Gallagher Group, 51p up at 283p.

Elsewhere, the profit-takers moved in on the back of Wall Street's record-breaking run overnight, with the FTSE 100 index reversing an early 20-point lead to close 14.8 down at 4,724.8. Turnover reached 872 million shares.

Energy Group stood out with a jump of 61p to 641p as the market continued to react to news of the bid talks with America's Pacificor that emerged after the close of business on Tuesday. The terms are expected to be pitched at around the 700p level, valuing Energy at £3.6 billion.

The excitement in Energy generated fresh takeover speculation among other potential targets in the electricity sector. Southern, the last surviving independent regional electricity company, put on 15p at 43p. There were also gains for Scottish Hydro, 20p up to 42p.



Michael Smith, chief executive of Argos, down 20p

PowerGen, 4p to 695p, and Northern Ireland Electricity, 41p to 409p.

Hopes of a merger between GEC, up 7p at 3601p, and British Aerospace, 151p higher at £13.65p, have been revived. Bae has also been making some positive comments to analysts.

Half-year figures from Granaia came in at the top end of expectations, with profits

boosted by the Forte acquisition. Meanwhile, bid talks are continuing with Yorkshire Tyne Tees Television, unchanged at £11.55. Granada is poised to offer £11.75 a share, valuing Yorkshire at £6.2 million. Granada ended 17p lower at 85p after dismissing claims it wishes to demerge media interests.

There was sabre rattling at British Airways, with the

price touching 712p before rallying to reduce the deficit to 1p at 728p. The group is threatening to abandon its alliance with American Airlines if the deal is not cleared before November.

P&O remains confident that the merger of its cross-Channel ferry operations with Stena will go ahead despite concern expressed by the European Commission. P&O's deferred shares slipped 3p to 618p.

Laura Ashley, the troubled stores group, touched a low of 79p before recovering to close all-square at 80p after losing its place in the FTSE 250 index. The group has seen its price tumble from a peak of 167p this year after being hit by a profits warning and several top-level departures. Fund managers are said to be increasingly impatient with its recovery.

The bears were gaining the upper hand over Argos as the price flopped 20p to an 18-month low of 575p. This followed a downgrading by ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, which has cut its forecast for the current year by £4 million to £153 million. Hoare said the downgrade reflected a combination of tough trading conditions and aggressive pricing for the catalogue retailer, where Michael Smith is chief executive. There was also talk that rival HSBC James Capel is turning increasingly bearish of the stock.

Positive comments about current trading at Chearington helped to more than offset a dive into the red and a cut in the dividend, with the price rising 22p to 100p.

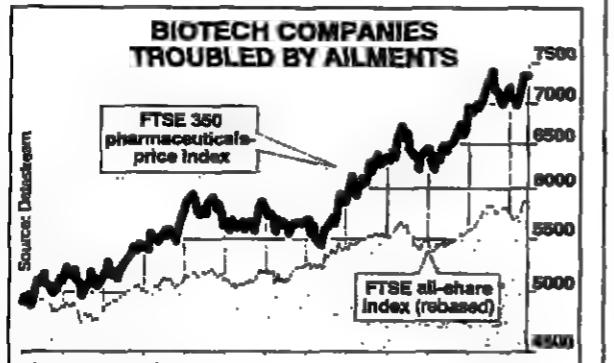
■ **GILT-EDGED:** A late sell-off saw prices close below their best levels of the day. Earlier, the market had been encouraged by the less than expected drop in the unemployment numbers and firmer European bond markets.

In futures, the September series of the long gilt finished three ticks better at £113.92 as 63,000 contracts were completed. Treasury 8 per cent 2015 put three ticks at £108.12, while Treasury 8 per cent was £1.12 firmer at £103.

■ **NEW YORK:** Shares edged higher, with modest gains among blue chips. The broader market was mixed and investors appeared to be waiting for economic data on the way. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 16.74 points ahead at 7,556.01.

■ **BIOTECH:** A late sell-off saw prices close below their best levels of the day. Earlier, the market had been encouraged by the less than expected drop in the unemployment numbers and firmer European bond markets.

■ **INVESTORS:** Investors now want to own shares in the big drug companies. The biotech companies are simply being ignored, he added.



Source: Datastream

FTSE 350 pharmaceuticals price index

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

June Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May

Source: Datastream

FTSE 350 pharmaceuticals price index

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

June Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May

Source: Datastream

FTSE 350 pharmaceuticals price index

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

June Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May

Source: Datastream

FTSE 350 pharmaceuticals price index

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

June Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May

Source: Datastream

FTSE 350 pharmaceuticals price index

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

June Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May

Source: Datastream

FTSE 350 pharmaceuticals price index

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

June Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May

Source: Datastream

FTSE 350 pharmaceuticals price index

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

June Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May

Source: Datastream

FTSE 350 pharmaceuticals price index

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

June Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May

Source: Datastream

FTSE 350 pharmaceuticals price index

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

June Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May

Source: Datastream

FTSE 350 pharmaceuticals price index

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

June Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May

Source: Datastream

FTSE 350 pharmaceuticals price index

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

June Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May

Source: Datastream

FTSE 350 pharmaceuticals price index

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

June Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May

Source: Datastream

FTSE 350 pharmaceuticals price index

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

June Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May

Source: Datastream

FTSE 350 pharmaceuticals price index

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

June Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May

Source: Datastream

FTSE 350 pharmaceuticals price index

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

June Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May

Source: Datastream

FTSE 350 pharmaceuticals price index

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

June Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May

Source: Datastream

FTSE 350 pharmaceuticals price index

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

June Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May

Source: Datastream

FTSE 350 pharmaceuticals price index

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

June Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May

Source: Datastream

FTSE 350 pharmaceuticals price index

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

June Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May

Source: Datastream

FTSE 350 pharmaceuticals price index

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

June Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May

Source: Datastream

FTSE 350 pharmaceuticals price index

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

June Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May

Source: Datastream

FTSE 350 pharmaceuticals price index

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

June Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May

Source: Datastream

FTSE 350 pharmaceuticals price index

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

June Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May

Source: Datastream

FTSE 350 pharmaceuticals price index

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

June Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May

Source: Datastream

FTSE 350 pharmaceuticals price index

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

June Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May

Source: Datastream

FTSE 350 pharmaceuticals price index

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

June Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May

Source: Datastream

FTSE 350 pharmaceuticals price index

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

June Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May

Source: Datastream

FTSE 350 pharmaceuticals price index

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

June Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May

Source: Datastream

FTSE 350 pharmaceuticals price index

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

June Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May

Source: Datastream

FTSE 350 pharmaceuticals price index

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

June Jul

TEMPUS
of hope?

THE TIMES THURSDAY JUNE 12 1997

Most of us start with some prejudice about take-over bids. To some, including the old Labour Party, they epitomise the heartless machinations of greedy, cigar-chomping tycoons bent on an insatiable quest for monopoly profits and power over their fellow workers. To others, including the intellectual godfathers of the Thatcher era, they represent the essence of sacred market forces that bring efficiency and growth via the triumph of the fittest in a "market for control".

To more cynical folk, mergers, acquisitions, demergers and buyouts, collectively the M&A trade, are fairground rackets run by City folk on the make and milked by speculators. Bankers, brokers, lawyers and accountants rake in billions in fees by persuading vain chief executives and gullible boards to play their zero-sum games.

The short and silly story of Energy Group seems to bear out the cynics. When privatised at a

humble price in 1990 as Eastern Electricity, its business was to supply 3 million households in the East of England and Home Counties. That is still its main business. In the intervening six and a half years, however, it has grown like a corporate snowball.

Eastern was taken over by Hanson as soon as state protection expired, at what appeared a hugely inflated price until higher prices were paid for others. Hanson built it up with big purchases of power stations, making it a key integrated player in a competitive electricity market. It also started developing seriously as a multiutility in gas and telephones.

Then Lord Hanson, archetypal predatory imperialist of the 1980s, offered his shareholders one final retirement spectacular: a grand, four-way merger on the model pioneered by the late Alexander the Great's generals. For this

purpose, Eastern was combined with America's Peabody coal mines in a corporate entity so brazenly constructed to appeal to an acquisitive American energy group as to make a Soho tart seem prudish by comparison.

The financial roulette did its job. Within months of the demerger Energy Group is talking terms with PacificCorp, another of those American power companies whose grandiose ambitions seem to be worryingly out of scale with their equity capital or experience.

There is ammunition here for all the contradictory prejudices. The takeover and the putative bid are about corporate power and profit margins. The merry-go-round has been an expensive zero-sum game. Those of us lucky enough to own shares in Eastern Electricity or Energy Group are sitting pretty. Top managers have remained much the same and fared even

better. Shareholders in Hanson, many of them the same people or funds, lost badly.

Yet changes of ownership have enabled Eastern to adapt to changing circumstances ahead of the pack. Employees may have suffered job losses faster because of the threat of takeover, but efficiency would have been forced on Eastern by regulation and later

competition, which also protected customers. And Hanson, the archetypal predator, proved the genetous long-term builder.

Far from backing prejudice, the Energy/Eastern saga confirms what most people who follow the M&A business soon discover: Takeover bids are no more a good thing or a bad thing than other aspects of free markets. There are good takeovers, malign ones and a vast number that matter nought for public policy.

So it is good news that Labour in power will abandon its presumption in opposition that takeover bids are against the public interest. But it is no surprise. Lord Borrie, whose advice was sought on this reversal, saw as many takeovers pass through his hands as director-general of fair Trading as anyone. Lord Borrie also knows that to discriminate against hostile takeovers merely transfers gains

from investors to managers. The Government should let the City play its games and intervene only for specific ends. It would be a pity, though, if Margaret Beckett, old Labour President of the Board of Trade, became such a convert to new Labour thinking that she bought the variant of merger control set up by Lord Tebbit during his stint in charge.

The Tebbit doctrine wanted

mergers to be referred to and judged by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission only on competition grounds. Other tests in the legislation, such as the impact on employment or regional economies were shelved. But competition itself is an equivocal test.

The MMC perennially finds that mergers increase concentration — that's what most are for — but lets them through anyway. Some of the most creative mergers are seemingly anti-competitive,

not least those which formed the present GEC with the blessing of a former Labour government.

As the Tories so often discovered at our expense, deregulation of markets frequently breeds big rises in public spending on welfare *et al.* The loss of big companies headquartered in regions with low incomes or high unemployment costs taxpayers a packet.

For the Tories, the costliest takeovers are those made as a substitute for riskier capital investment on new products or expansion. There are lots of them, enough to squeeze the total growth of the economy.

Tax signals may be the purest guides to economic forces, but Mrs Beckett can help directly through selective, necessarily fallible action on mergers. Her decision on the latest, pointless brewery merger and a new letter to the competition authorities could tell the corporate world that Labour means business on competition and that acquisitions will not be the easy option for managers without the skill or courage to take risks.

BA's American alliance should not be cleared for take-off

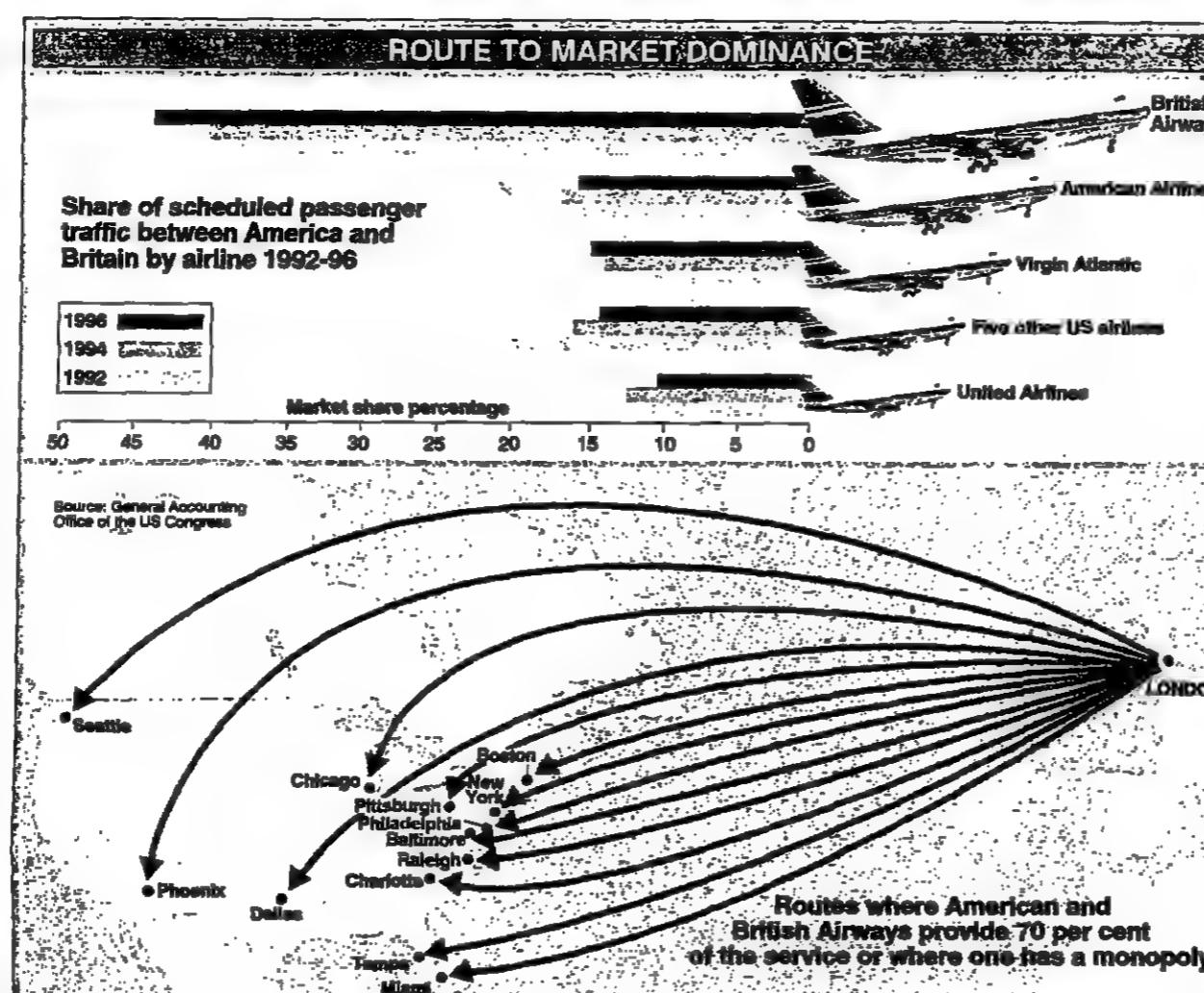
The proposed link-up would damage competition, says Bronwen Maddox

The swirls and calligraphy of British Airways' new livery were designed well before Tony Blair's triumph. So was the strategy that has inspired the change of image: an aggressive international expansion, resting above all on the hope that the alliance with American Airlines will be approved by the British and American authorities.

The proposed alliance, like Camelot directors' pay, is the kind of business controversy that acts as a Rorschach test for politicians, revealing where their instincts towards competition really lie. On both sides of the Atlantic, until this month, the test suggested that the two governments backed the interests of national champions above those of the public and competition.

Until the May election, the alliance, announced last summer, looked like a done deal. Now Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, has a chance to correct the mistake that the previous Government was about to make, and hold a much more searching inquiry into the potential harm from the merger. At the same time, she has a chance to show that new Labour, in contrast to old Labour and to John Major's Government, is committed to a competition policy that actually promotes competition.

The alliance would allow BA and American to merge their ticketing, codes and frequent flyer programmes on transatlantic routes; in effect, they would act as one airline. Together, they would carry 60 per cent of the passengers travelling between Britain and the US, and an even higher proportion between Britain and some key US cities. In Britain, they hope the Department of Trade and Industry will approve the deal without a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission; in the US, they want the Justice Department to



granted exemption from antitrust investigations.

They have reason to hope for such indulgent treatment because the issue has become fused with the two countries' latest attempt to strike an "open skies" treaty: a relaxation of the strict regulations curbing access to each other's markets. The US Government, which has long wanted access to Heathrow for more US airlines, has made an open skies deal its condition for allowing the alliance. Mr Major's Government, which appeared to back the alliance, subject to some curbs, was wrangling with the terms of the open skies deal when the guillotine of the European Commission fell.

With the change of government, all bets are off, fuelling this month's high-energy lobbying efforts on both sides of the Atlantic. In Washington last week, a Senate committee hearing assembled for the first time an all-star panel of the protagonists. For those, in the

current fashion, who like their corporate battles highly personalised, it was perfect theatre.

On one side, Robert Crandall, chairman of American Airlines, was paired with the less emphatic Robert Ayling, chief executive of BA. Tight-lipped and narrow-faced, Crandall drove home every point with a jab of the finger, like a character from *Glenragar, Glenross*. David Mamet's classic drama of the eleventh-hour sales pitch.

Against them were ranged Richard Branson, chairman of Virgin Atlantic, and Sir Freddie Laker, founder of Skytrain in the 1970s. Branson, in an open-necked shirt, delivered a script of ambitious metaphors (calling his rivals "international jewel thieves snatching away the precious gem of competition") in his curiously overwhelming London accent, like a public schoolboy trying to play King Lear without sacrificing street-smart attitude.

Laker scored on charm, thanking the American people and their antitrust laws for helping him win a settlement from BA and other carriers in his darkest hour.

Theatrical distractions aside, Branson and Laker are in the right: the two main arguments put forward by BA and American are nonsense; the deal would hurt competition; the remedies suggested by the Office of Fair Trading do not consider deeply enough the most contentious points.

The first claim of BA and American is that because their alliance would lead an open skies agreement, it would help competition. They make an excellent case for an open skies agreement, but there is no reason to conclude that their deal, which could water down its benefits to passengers, should proceed at the same time. The two issues have become fused only because the

Conservative Government appears to identify the national interest with BA's interests.

By taking the position that Britain was "getting something" out of the merger, Mr Major's Government also gave ground more easily than it need have done in open skies negotiations, securing virtually none of the access to the huge US domestic market which had, rightly, originally wanted.

The second argument of the two airlines is that their combined share of the US to Britain market would not be "too great" because it would be less than other airlines or alliances have at several European airports.

They point out that Sabena has 56 per cent of the scheduled flights from Brussels, SAS 58 per cent at Copenhagen and Lufthansa 60 per cent at Frankfurt. But the fact that services to some continental cities are dominated by one airline does not justify making the same mistake at Heathrow.

As a remedy for the threat to the heart of the problem is that there is little space at Heathrow in which to squeeze more competition. If Ms Beckett really wants to get to grips with the conundrum, she should consider auctioning off the prized landing slots, as many witnesses to Heathrow planning inquiries have recommended. At present, they are doled out free on the basis of historical patterns of traffic, modified somewhat by lobbying efforts; as airlines pay nothing for them, it is unsurprising that demand continues to rise. Estimates of the annual revenue to the UK Treasury from selling off these scarce resources range from £250 million to £500 million. Not being retrospective, it would have more legitimacy than the windfall tax.

That this proposal was not in the Labour manifesto does not, of course, mean that it is not about to be announced tomorrow. But for all the temptations of the adrenaline of the Government's first month, there is no advantage for Ms Beckett in moving precipitously on these questions. She should press ahead with open skies talks, judge the proposed alliance separately, and seize the chance which previous governments have missed to consider a truly radical opening of the market in landing slots at Heathrow. That is the only route likely to provide lasting competition.

That this proposal was not in the Labour manifesto does not, of course, mean that it is not about to be announced tomorrow.

But for all the temptations of the adrenaline of the Government's first month, there is no advantage for Ms Beckett in moving precipitously on these questions. She should press ahead with open skies talks, judge the proposed alliance separately, and seize the chance which previous governments have missed to consider a truly radical opening of the market in landing slots at Heathrow. That is the only route likely to provide lasting competition.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Merger depletes shareholders' rights

From Mr Michael Faraday

which would not have happened had the companies not wished to bribe their institutional shareholders.

It has long been a scandal, tacitly encouraged by the Stock Exchange. But could we expect otherwise from a body which set up the Crest system, which has also deprived individual shareholders of their rights?

Yours faithfully,
M. A. FARADAY,
47 Walton Gardens,
Walton-on-Thames,
Surrey.

PGA points

From the Managing Director of PGA European Tour Courses plc

up to an amount of £8 million. This was disclosed in the listing particulars dated April 19, 1996.

3. There is, therefore, no mention of a potential liability of £8 million regarding the legal action by Mr Abraham in the report and accounts. No legal action is being taken against the company. The liability that is referred to in the accounts appertains to an entirely different matter, involving certain warranties and indemnities provided to PGA European Tour Courses (IMC) Ltd. full details of which were disclosed in the listing particulars. They relate to the group's commercial property portfolio, which has now largely been sold at a profit to book value.

4. It should also be made clear that PGA European Tour Courses plc is quoted on the official list of the London Stock Exchange, not the Alternative Investment Market, and that the company owns 100 per cent of Quinta do Lago.

Yours faithfully,
SEAN KELLY,
Managing Director,
PGA European Tour Courses plc,
77a Windsor Road,
Chobham,
Surrey.

Top of the flops

OH DEAR. A sad victim of Labour's desire to sweep away the trappings of the past is the Exel Survey of Investment Analysts, one of the City's most nerve-racking occasions as the teenage scribblers find out where they are in the hit parade this year. They have been known to calm their nerves with the odd glass or four. Not this year: the event falls on July 2, Budget day. The venue had to be booked ages ahead, at a time when the Budget might have been expected to fall on a Tuesday, and not in

midsummer either. "It's always the first Wednesday in July," says an Exel insider plaintively. The ceremony will be cut short to allow guests to catch, sober, the Chancellor's speech.

● MICHAEL HARDERN, the carpet-bagger pushing for conversion of the Nationwide, increased his pressure on the building society yesterday. He drove into the car of Alastair Dales, the finance director. "It was an accident," claimed Hardern convincingly. He was parking outside the Nationwide's offices in Holborn, where the annual results were being announced. No damage — and the Nationwide generously said it would take no action.

Chinese wall

BUSINESS is business. The managing director of Chase Manhattan Bank (Hong Kong) is interviewed this evening for Channel Four's *Dispatches*, which looks at how companies have already made compromises with Beijing. In an interview, Anthony Leung, who is also a member of the executive council set up to run the colony under Chinese rule, describes the Tiananmen Square massacre as "clumsy". Twice. It would have been better to use water

THE
TIMES
CITY
DIARY



cannon and teargas rather than tanks and machine guns. "But the suppression, I believe, is being held by most Hong Kong people as right."

Piled high

SOME musical chairs at Tesco's head office at Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, are being watched with interest by the underlings there. Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth's rather impressive office fell vacant when he retired on Friday. A debate ensued. Terry Leahy, the chief executive, is a down-to-earth Liverpudlian. A Leahy occupation would smack of deviousness of grandeur. The new chairman, John Gardiner, is part-time, so hardly needs the space. The other con-

tender is David Reid. But should the deputy chairman occupy a larger area than the man who runs the company? A compromise has been reached. Leahy gets the office occupied by David Malpas, the managing director who retired in February. So he gets more space.

Lord MacLaurin's office goes to Reid, on the grounds that he is also finance director and holds meetings with auditors, accountants and the rest. Of course, so he gets an upgrade too. His old office, bigger than Leahy's, goes to Gardiner. So the chairman has a hole-bolt. This might seem trivial, but only to anyone who has not worked in a large organisation.

Memory lane

WHEN Marks & Spencer chairman Sir Richard Greenbury claims that the company's store on Edinburgh's

Princes Street means, above all other branches, something "exceptionally special" to him, he is being sincere. Commitments in London will prevent him from attending today's celebrations. 40 years to the day since the store opened. But Sir Richard has been recalling his Edinburgh connections. He was an employee at the store that day, as a departmental manager.

"I was a menswear then, and for a year I rented a flat nearby, in the city's Rose Street, famous for its pubs. I also met the woman who was to become my wife. She was one of our Saturday part-time girls while she was studying at Edinburgh University."

MARTIN WALLER

Happy anniversary: Sir Richard Greenbury in nostalgic mood



"You won't believe this, but we've already been raided this morning"

Fill in this coupon, or call us now on 01828 481500 to find out more about Lexmark printers.
Alternatively, fax us on 01828 481694 or e-mail us at: printers@lexmark.com
Printers International Ltd, Westbury House, Little Marlow Road, Marlow, Bucks, SL7 3PD

PRINT
LEXMARK

Housing recovery makes Meyer optimistic

By ADAM JONES

MEYER International, owner of the reorganised Jenson building merchant's chain, said yesterday that it was cautiously optimistic about trading this year as benefits from the housing recovery begin to filter through.

The shares rose 11½p to 426½p after Meyer announced better than expected annual profits in the year ended March 31 of £45.4 million before tax, compared with £37.6 million before exceptions in the previous year.

The company also said that Alan Peterson, currently chief operating officer, will succeed John Dobby as chief executive at the end of the year. Harry Langman, the chairman, will retire in September and be succeeded by Tony Palmer, who is a former chief executive of Taylor & Woodrow and a current non-executive director.

Mr Peterson said that this year's optimism was tinged with caution because of the geographical patchiness of the housing market revival.

The Jenson chain, which provided more than a third of the group's £1.139 billion turnover, draws about 11 per cent of its sales from London and the South East of England, with the rest spread across the UK.

Improvements in the key market for property repair, maintenance and improvement were only noticed in February and March, the last two months of the 1996-97 financial year. This was tempered by bad winter weather in many of the group's locations.

Mr Peterson said that the company was looking for further acquisitions in laminates distribution in the US. A final dividend of 7.8p, compared with 7.3p, is due to be paid on September 1, making a total payout of 12p (11.5p last time).



John Dobby, left, with Alan Peterson, chief operating officer, who is to succeed him as chief executive of Meyer International at the end of the year

BAe 'chooses side' in dogfight for \$170bn US fighter deal

By OLIVER AUGUST

BRITISH AEROSPACE is believed to have made a decision on which bid to join in the dogfight over the world's biggest defence order.

Boeing and Lockheed Martin, the two US aerospace groups are competing to build the \$170 billion Joint Strike Fighter (JSF), America's military aircraft for the 21st century.

After BAe's own bid was rejected last year.

An announcement on the JSF had been planned for the Paris Air Show, which starts on Saturday, but BAe pulled the plug this week in the wake of continuing uncertainty over the \$45 billion Eurofighter project. The announcement is now expected later this month.

BAe is committed to joining one of the two bids. The

company's decision on which one will be of crucial importance to its performance over the next two decades.

If it chooses the bidder that loses it will miss out on subcontracting work on up to 6,000 military aircraft and access to the latest American technology.

Lockheed Martin is seen as the frontrunner because Boeing is BAe's main rival in

civil aviation. Boeing and Airbus, of which BAe is a member, are direct competitors.

Industry insiders said that BAe could not link up with Boeing on military aircraft while competing on commercial planes.

A second reason to choose Lockheed Martin is the American group's close relationship with BAe and Airbus. But such

strategic reasoning may have been discarded by BAe executives, who have repeatedly expressed interest in Boeing's bid. It is said to be technologically more advanced and has the added advantage of also including McDonnell Douglas, BAe's partner in its own failed bid.

The JSF will be the first aircraft to combine the stealth characteristics of the B2 and the vertical take-off capability of the Harrier, which was originally developed by BAe.

The US Government will decide between the Boeing and Lockheed bids in 2001 and the first aircraft are scheduled to roll off the production lines in 2003.

Air International magazine said of the contract: "It is expected to be the most important military aircraft programme in the early decades of the next century. The global total could easily expand to 5,000-6,000 units."

Waddington makes record profits

WADDINGTON, the specialist printing and board manufacturing group, reported record sales and profits yesterday and announced plans to invest £30 million in capital equipment (Oliver August writes).

Martin Buckley, the chief executive, said the group last year continued to focus efforts and investment on niche sec-

tors of growing markets where it holds a leading position. He said: "The benefits of this strategy are reflected in record sales and profits. We are well placed to continue this excellent progress."

In the year to March 29, pre-tax profits rose from £11.7 million to £32.1 million. Earnings per share were 21.57p (7.45p)

and the total dividend is lifted to 10.4p (9.4p). The final dividend of 6p (5.4p) will be paid on August 7.

The company said it expected market growth in all sectors in 1998 and had installed capacity to meet the expected demand. The pharmaceutical packaging business was singled out for especially strong

organic growth. Mr Buckley said benefits were expected from new equipment at its domestic specialist printing operations, particularly in the year to March 1999.

The £30 million investment programme will particularly support growth opportunities in pharmaceutical packaging and specialist printing.

ACCOUNTANCY

Get to grips with intangibles

Raymond Perrier on the need to enforce discipline over brand valuation

Are accountants no longer measuring what really generates value in companies? A recent study by Interbrand and Citibank would suggest that changes in the world of brands, intangible assets and financial reporting are long overdue.

The Accounting Standards Board (ASB) guidelines on accounting for acquired goodwill and intangibles are due for imminent publication. The recognition that brands (and other intangible assets) are not the same as goodwill and should be treated differently for recognition and amortisation purposes will finally have been formalised.

But this is only the first stage of the debate about brands on the balance sheet. Focus should now shift to the second stage: not "Should we value brands?", but "How should we value brands?" We believe that if brands are to start appearing on balance sheets again, a degree of professional discipline is required, and that the time is ripe for an institute of brand valuation.

The ASB continues to lead the world in the debate on the balance sheet recognition of intangibles. The French and Australian accounting bodies are watching closely, and preparers and users of accounts in their countries are as keen as their UK counterparts to see



Raymond Perrier says serious issues need to be addressed words not of an accounting iconoclast but of Steve Wallmann, SEC commissioner in *Forbes* magazine.

But there are historic limitations to the balance sheet, and we should recognise that the types of assets that make up much of the gap are different in nature to traditional balance sheets. One solution is for a new kind of report — a "statement of intellectual capital" — to provide some of the missing information. This would sit alongside the balance sheet and be prepared and audited in an appropriate way to establish comparability between companies and over time.

In the meantime, acquired brands and other intangibles are about to start appearing more often on balance sheets. Having started this debate,

there is a responsibility on the UK business community (and I don't just mean accountants) to show how the recognition of intangibles can be done in a way that provides useful and reliable information to shareholders.

These dual needs are sometimes seen as potentially conflicting. But this is the same conundrum that is faced in preparing every other aspect of a company's accounts, and no honest reader of a balance sheet or a P&L can pretend that there is no element of judgment within this "social science".

However, even social sciences have their orthodoxies and academies. Surely the time has come for a professional body — an institute of brand valuation — that can bring together the brand owners, the brand valuers, the investment community and the auditors.

There are some serious issues that need to be addressed: acceptable methods of valuation, levels of disclosure, required expertise, treatments of revaluations, and conflicts of interest.

Brand marketers have become used to facing increased discipline in how they account externally for their brands. Preparers of accounts should perhaps start to recognise that they need the same sort of discipline if they are not to undermine credibility before they start.

Just giving the nod to a directors' valuation is perhaps not a good place to start.

Raymond Perrier is brand evaluation director for Interbrand.

attitudes towards public relations.

It follows the American view that accountancy firms should keep themselves to themselves. However, the firm also believes in the UK view that you should get out and about and tell people what is going on.

People at the heart of this schizophrenia tend to become confused. Tim Prizeman, Andersen's in-house public relations man, is off to form his own company. It will be based in the City and will advise accountants, lawyers and anyone else who needs help.

ROBERT BRUCE

Don't count on harmony

THE debate over the harmonisation of international accounting standards has never been characterised by diplomacy and tactful statements.

There was, for example, the point at which the Americans referred to the role of Sir David Tweedie, the chairman of the UK Accounting Standards Board, as being on a par with that of a telephone operator. Sir David responded by having a sign to that effect made up, and he now displays it on his

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Archaic Scots

IT IS always difficult to dream up a new title within the profession. The Scots are wondering about launching a new second-tier training system, but they are unsure what to call people who gain the proposed qualification. First, they thought of Associate CA, which sounded good, then realised that ACA is what fully qualified English chartered accountants call themselves, and that they might be snooty about second-tier Scots seem-

PR confusion

ARTHUR ANDERSEN has always had an ambivalent

IASC looks to have turned the corner

IT IS hardly surprising that finance directors tend to take the view that arguments about international accounting standards are hardly worth participating in. The problem is the scale of the politics between all the interested parties. The arguments have nothing to do with whether or not a bank can do this or that with its figures in New York; they are all about the pecking order of the standard-setting bodies around the world.

Hence a flurry of press releases from the International Accounting Standards Committee (IASC) in the past few days. "22 Arab nations support the adoption of international accounting standards," says one. "People's Republic of China to participate in setting international accounting standards," says another. But the highest stakes are those involving the US.

When IOSCO, the body representing international stock exchanges, reached a pact with the IASC that if a proper programme of basic standards could be ratified then it

would recognise those standards as an entry level to international listings, the potential impact of that decision took a long time to sink in.

The US accounting standard-setters, the FASB, tended to argue that the existing US rules were superior, and that, by and large, was that. A recognition process might be put into practice, but nothing would come of it.

The world would continue to hear a patch to the US door and ask, in a suitably reverent way, if they could be admitted. The all-powerful Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) was equally guardedly.

But the IASC has plugged away at its task. And last week, at a conference organised by Coopers & Lybrand in London, it was argued as though it might have turned the corner. There is now a real possibility that companies from across the globe could gain listing in New York by following the IASC's standards. And that, in a nutshell, is what the whole process is about.

There is still a long way to go. The IASC has much work to do on the treatment of financial instruments, for example. And the target of having its programme wrapped up by April next year seems ever more ambitious. As one man from BMW put it in a question from the floor: "In Germany we expect it to be the longest April ever." But the tide has turned.

One significant point was the attitude of Sir David Tweedie, the chairman of the UK Accounting Standards Board (ASB), his role is pivotal. And in the past he has tended to play the canny Scot and not let on precisely where his sympathies lie, except in the abstract sense of seeking truth in financial reporting. But last week his attitude was very different.

He had asked for advice from US firms, and Cochrane also argued that the SEC was more likely to endorse the IASC programme than not. On this point people are still sceptical. It will be one thing for the SEC to agree in principle. But it is likely to stick to giving foreign companies a hard time over the detail of their financial reporting before a listing can be agreed.

So it looks as though many of the battles are reaching resolution. And the political battles ahead may fall to the same sort of pragmatic concerns. Finance directors would now do well to start dusting off their own intentions and start taking part.

Gibraltar can sell insurance services in EU

FROM DOMINIQUE SERLE IN GIBRALTAR

AFTER a decade of limited expansion, Gibraltar's finance centre industry yesterday welcomed as a major breakthrough clearance from the UK Government to market insurance services in Britain and the European Union. Mr Caruana said it had been made clear that Britain was prepared to defend Gibraltar's rights on this issue.

Meanwhile, Peter Montegriffo, Gibraltar's Trade and Industry Minister, is expected in Cologne for an insurance conference where he will announce the way also for the provision of banking and investment services.

The move means that insurance companies set up, approved and supervised in Gibraltar will have the right to branch into the European Union without further authorisation.

The change comes after an audit by an independent review team drawn from the Treasury in London, the

P&O Stena Line worries Brussels

By FRASER NELSON

P&O has been warned by the European Commission that its plans to merge its cross-Channel operations with those of Stena have raised "serious doubts" in Brussels.

He said that the joint company already had its own management in place, and added that the company expected final outcome should meet with regulators' approval both in Britain and in Brussels.

Analysts said that Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, was likely to present a stiffer hurdle. The Monopolies and Mergers Commission has finished a report on the proposed merger, and the DTI is expected to give its decision within the next few days.

The other powerful voice in favour of pragmatism was that of James Cochrane, senior vice-president of the New York Stock Exchange. Admittedly his job is to enhance and enlarge the role of the exchange overseas and so his inclinations are likely to be towards allowing more overseas companies to gain a listing.

But he railed more against the reactionary forces employed against the IASC's efforts. In particular he singled out analysts on

the grounds that they hate change, and US accountants, US accounting firms, argued, know the US rules and have less of a knowledge of international rules, and so have a vested interest in keeping knowledge of US rules rare and valuable. Their market is in advising foreign companies on US rules.

So they would rather not see the whole process thrown open. This was backed up by one participant at the conference who reported "polite amused indulgence" when he had asked for advice from US firms.

And Cochrane also argued that the SEC was more likely to endorse the IASC programme than not. On this point people are still sceptical. It will be one thing for the SEC to agree in principle. But it is likely to stick to giving foreign companies a hard time over the detail of their financial reporting before a listing can be agreed.

So it looks as though many of the battles are reaching resolution. And the political battles ahead may fall to the same sort of pragmatic concerns. Finance directors would now do well to start dusting off their own intentions and start taking part.

July 10 1997

THE TIMES THURSDAY JUNE 12 1997

Ionica sets date for delayed flotation

By ERIC REGULY

IONICA, the wireless phone company, announced yesterday that its long-delayed flotation will finally proceed in July, raising about £125 million in new money.

The share placing, underwritten by SBC Warburg, is expected to value Ionica at about £600 million. Nigel Playford, the chief executive who founded the company in 1991, will own 6.3 per cent of the floated company, valuing his stake at about £38 million.

The shares will begin trading on the London and Nasdaq markets in mid-July. All the current shareholders, including Yorkshire Electricity, Doughty Hanson, Morgan Stanley Capital Partners and Bank of America are to keep their holdings, though they will be diluted by about 20 per cent. Ionica uses digital technology to provide telecoms

services to residential and small business customers. The system, which uses small, window-mounted antennae, is cheaper to install than cable-telephony systems because no digging is required. Analysts estimate that it costs Ionica about £300 to connect a customer, against £500 or more to connect a cable customer.

The company's marketing strategy is based on undercutting British Telecom's prices and providing features such as three lines per number and voicemail. The arrival of "number portability" means that customers can keep their existing numbers when they switch.

Ionica launched commercial operations in the East of England a year ago, more than a year behind schedule, and moved into the Midlands in February. It has some 22,000 customers and is aiming for 10 per cent penetration in the markets in which it operates. Waburg expects the company to generate revenues of £100 million in the 1998-99 financial year and as much as £750 million in 2001-02, when it should report its first pre-tax profits.

The company has raised £400 million in bank debt and high-yield debt to fund its expansion. About £150 million remains, enough to fund its operations until the end of the year. The flotation, which was initially planned for last autumn, removes the pressure to complete another debt financing before the end of the year.

□ Colt, formerly City of London Telecommunications, is to build a local exchange network in Hamburg, the third German city in which it will offer services to corporate and government customers. The Hamburg development will cost about DM100 million and will employ up to 100 staff.

Victrex dips on warning

SHARES in Victrex fell 6.5p to a low of 153.5p as the plastics group gave warning that benefits of its plan to combat sterling's strength by lifting prices on the Continent, where it generates a third of its trade, cannot rescue full-year results and will not come through until mid-1998.

Results for the half year to March 31 confirmed the warning made in January, with pre-tax profit down to £5.05 million, from £8.35 million. Earnings per share were 4.7p (5.9p). The interim dividend is held at 1.5p.

A full-year profit down 11 per cent to £11.5 million is now expected.



Keith Stott, chief executive of WT Foods, left, with Rod Garland, finance director, who served up pre-tax profits which almost trebled to £1.4 million from £504,000 in the year to March 31. The company reported earnings of 1.6p a share, up from 0.48p, and the dividend increases to 1.5p from 1.35p, with a final 1p payable on August 1.

Bradford Trust lifts asset value

By MARTIN BARROW

BRADFORD PROPERTY TRUST

THE owner of tenanted residential property, achieved an 8 per cent rise in net asset value to 218p a share last year.

The increase reflects the overall improvement in the residential property market in most parts of the country and an uplift in rents on regulated tenancies.

Philip Warner, chairman, said these rents were still below market levels achievable under assured and assured shorthold tenancies and that further increases were expected in the current year, although at a slower rate. In the year to April 5 the group's annualised rent roll was £31 million, up from £29.8 million.

Pre-tax profits increased 14

per cent to £29.1 million from £25.6 million, while earnings rose 12 per cent to 13.26p a share from 11.86p. A final dividend of 4.65p a share makes a total of 8.45p, up from 7.8p previously.

Mr Warner said: "The climate appears set fair with the residential markets for both investment and vacant properties improving." Although interest rates may continue to rise in the short-term, 75 per cent of the company's borrowings are fixed. At the year-end net borrowings were £87.5 million, up from £81.9 million.

Acquisitions of housing stock completed during the year totalled £18.3 million. Including a portfolio from British Gas.

Chemring shares rally despite loss

By MARTIN BARROW

SHARES

OF Chemring Group, which have fallen to 76.5p from 445p in the past 12 months, rallied 19.5p to 99p yesterday.

The rise came after the industrial and defence products company announced the appointment of Ken Scoble, the company doctor, as chairman to succeed Sir William Barlow, who has held the post on an interim basis since March.

The shares rose despite news of pre-tax losses of £13.1 million before tax for the half-year to April 4, against profits of £4.47 million previously.

The interim dividend is cut to 2p a share from 3.76p.

Headline losses reflect the heavy cost of restructuring the

business, which incurred an operating loss of £119 million after suffering a 24 per cent decline in turnover to £31.7 million.

Total exceptional costs were £11.3 million and include provisions against the closure of the leisure clothing division, losses on property disposals and redundancy costs.

The company will seek to reduce borrowings, which rose to £16.2 million at the half-year stage. They stood at £15.6 million at the last year end.

The company said that it expects to earn an operating profit in the second half, albeit at a lower level than in the final six months of the previous financial year.

BUSINESS NEWS 33

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Fountain Forestry looks for growth

FOUNTAIN FORESTRY, the woodland management and shrub control company, returned pre-tax profits of £476,000 (£362,000) at the halfway stage to March 28, after winning a string of new contracts. The company raised £1.2 million from the flotation on the Alternative Investment Market in November, which it used to write off debt and buy new machinery to bolster its railway shrub control arm. Orders from Railtrack grew to £500,000, but the company said that the railside market is in its infancy and should show substantial growth over the next few years.

Barry Gamble, chief executive, said that the company still has £818,000 left over from the fundraising, and it is now considering making acquisitions either in the UK or the US. After interest payments delivered by the cash pile, earnings grew from 3.58p to 4.04p a share. A maiden interim dividend of 0.92p is due to be paid on July 21. The shares, which joined the market at 84.5p, gained 8p to 103.5p.

Fortune Oil investment

FORTUNE OIL, the Hong Kong based and London-listed oil distributor, is spending £3 million on a new mooring buoy for its main Chinese subsidiary, a sum equivalent to its annual profits. In return, Fortune has been promised £24 million of orders from Sinopec Maoming Petrochemical Corporation, its main client, over the next three years. The buoy, which will spearhead a £15 million syphoning system linking oil tankers to refineries, should also save £1 million a year. Fortune's shares gained 3p to a high of 16.5p.

Tinsley advances

EXPANSION into industrial hardware helped Eliza Tinsley, the chains and hardware group, to lift pre-tax profits from £1.25 million to £2.01 million in the year to March 31. Last November's acquisitions of Evenwood and GR Smithson, specialist engineering companies, helped to offset flat results from its remaining chain operations. Earnings increased to 10.8p (9.01p) a share and a final dividend of 4p brings the total to 6.1p (5.8p), payable on October 1. Tinsley's shares increased 7.5p to 115p.

European Colour ahead

EUROPEAN COLOUR, the pigments and coatings group, lifted full-year pre-tax profits to £3.8 million (£2.9 million) after integrating Tor Coatings, the graffiti-proof paint producer that it bought last August. The acquisition added £3.93 million to sales, helping earnings from 5.01p to 5.62p a share in the year to March 31. A final dividend of 1.57p will be paid on July 23, taking the total to 2.4p (2.2p). The company, which doubled its cash pile to £850,000, seeks further acquisitions.

Davis Service sells

THE Davis Service Service Group is raising £8.4 million with the sale of Pall Mall Service Group to Sutcliffe Catering, a subsidiary of Granada. Pall Mall provides catering, cleaning and support services to the public sector, including the Ministry of Defence, health service trusts and hospitals and local authorities. In 1996 the business incurred a loss of £163,000. Net assets attributable to the business being sold are £700,000.

36 new suns turn Asia's First into Asia's Sunniest.

Witness the rebirth of Asia's first airline as 36 all-new state-of-the-art aircraft take to the skies. 36 new planes to bring you to more places in less time. 36 new bursts of warmth to brighten up your flight.

Philippine Airlines

Asia's Sunniest

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE											
	Set	Buy	-/+ %	Set	Buy	-/+ %	Set	Buy	-/+ %	Set	Buy
For All Net Gains/Losses											
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MTRS	01203 553 231										
General Inv.	777.10	125.50	+ 0.0	2.29							
Global Inv. Acc.	643.50	85.00	+ 0.0	2.29							
UK Growth Acc.	120.30	17.50	+ 0.0	2.29							
UK Income Acc.	94.20	10.50	+ 0.0	2.29							
Hedge Fund Inv.	39.30	5.50	+ 0.0	2.29							
High Income Fund	42.20	5.50	+ 0.0	2.29							
High Risk Fund	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	2.29							
Mid Income Fund	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	2.29							
Small Income Fund	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	2.29							
Special Fund	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	2.29							
UK Equity Fund	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	2.29							
UK Income Fund	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	2.29							
UK Small Cap Fund	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	2.29							
UK Special Fund	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	2.29							
World Income Fund	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	2.29							
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MTRS	01203 553 231										
General Inv.	134.40	18.00	+ 0.0	5.33							
High Income Fund	35.60	5.10	+ 0.0	4.41							
Worldwide Bond Fund	274.10	26.50	+ 0.0	3.68							
Asian Income Fund	140.70	16.40	+ 0.0	3.30							
Accts & Earnings Fund	134.40	18.00	+ 0.0	3.24							
Exta Inv.	32.30	4.00	+ 0.0	3.24							
Capital Inv.	29.70	3.50	+ 0.0	3.24							
Central Inv.	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	3.24							
Emerging Inv.	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	3.24							
City Inv.	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	3.24							
City of London Unit Trust Mtrs	01111 071 227 923										
General Inv.	81.70	10.50	- 0.0	14							
High Income Fund	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
World Inv.	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
AXE UNIT TST MTRS	0146 717 373										
General Inv.	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
High Income Fund	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
Worldwide Bond Fund	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
Asian Income Fund	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
Accts & Earnings Fund	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
Exta Inv.	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
Capital Inv.	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
Central Inv.	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
Emerging Inv.	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
City Inv.	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
City of London Unit Trust Mtrs	01111 071 227 923										
General Inv.	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
High Income Fund	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
World Inv.	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
AXE UNIT TST MTRS	0146 717 373										
General Inv.	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
High Income Fund	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
Worldwide Bond Fund	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
Asian Income Fund	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
Accts & Earnings Fund	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
Exta Inv.	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
Capital Inv.	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
Central Inv.	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
Emerging Inv.	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
City Inv.	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
City of London Unit Trust Mtrs	01111 071 227 923										
General Inv.	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
High Income Fund	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
World Inv.	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
AXE UNIT TST MTRS	0146 717 373										
General Inv.	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
High Income Fund	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
Worldwide Bond Fund	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
Asian Income Fund	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
Accts & Earnings Fund	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
Exta Inv.	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
Capital Inv.	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
Central Inv.	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
Emerging Inv.	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
City Inv.	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
City of London Unit Trust Mtrs	01111 071 227 923										
General Inv.	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
High Income Fund	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
World Inv.	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
AXE UNIT TST MTRS	0146 717 373										
General Inv.	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
High Income Fund	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
Worldwide Bond Fund	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
Asian Income Fund	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
Accts & Earnings Fund	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
Exta Inv.	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
Capital Inv.	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
Central Inv.	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
Emerging Inv.	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
City Inv.	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
City of London Unit Trust Mtrs	01111 071 227 923										
General Inv.	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
High Income Fund	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
World Inv.	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
AXE UNIT TST MTRS	0146 717 373										
General Inv.	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							
High Income Fund	10.00	1.50	+ 0.0	14							

Law Report June 12 1997 Court of Appeal

Documents disclosed for criminal trial can be used in civil case

Mahon and Another v Rahn and Others

Before Lord Justice Staugton, Lord Justice Ottton and Lord Justice Schiemann

Judgment May 23

There was no implied undertaking in criminal proceedings such as existed in civil proceedings that documents disclosed by the prosecution to the defendants would not be used by the defendants in subsequent civil proceedings without the leave of the court.

Accordingly, it was not an abuse of process to bring a libel action based on documents previously disclosed in the plaintiffs as defendants in an unsuccessful criminal prosecution, whether or not the documents had been read to or by the court or referred to in open court. In those criminal proceedings

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments allowing an appeal by the plaintiffs, Patrick Mahon and Andrew Leslie Kent, against the decision on June 19, 1996 of Mr Justice Brooke in which he struck out their action for libel against the defendants, Christian Rahn, Hans-Jakob Biederman, Martin Haub-Biedermann and Frank Bodmer, on the ground that the documents used were obtained by the plaintiffs by way of disclosure in unsuccessful criminal proceedings against them and thus constituted an abuse of process.

Mr Charles Gray, QC and Miss Victoria Sharp for the plaintiffs; Mr Patrick Moloney for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE OTTON said that one of the issues was whether there was an implied undertaking in criminal disclosure as there was in civil. Several matters needed to be examined to decide that issue:

What was the scope of the implied undertaking in civil proceedings?

In civil proceedings a party who obtained disclosure might use the documents disclosed to him only for the proper purposes of conducting his own case and there was an implied undertaking by him not to use them for any collateral or ulterior purpose.

Misuse of the documents might be restrained by injunction or punished as a contempt. An action based on a misused document would ordinarily be dismissed as an abuse of process.

Once the document had been read to or by the court or referred to in open court, the matter was governed by Order 24, rule 14A of the Rules of the Supreme Court which provided:

"Any undertaking, whether express or implied, not to use a document for any purposes other than those of the proceedings in which it is disclosed shall cease to apply to such document after it has been read to or by the court or referred to in open court, unless the court for special reasons has otherwise ordered on the application of a party or of the person to whom the document belongs."

Rule 14A was considered in *Tejinder Singh v Chishti* (The Times November 11, 1993), where Mr Justice Drake had held that a plaintiff could not use the documents in question as the basis for defamation action.

It was therefore apparent that the rationale for the existence of the implied undertaking in civil proceedings was based upon:

I. The "compulsion principle": disclosure compelled a party to disclose documents and was therefore an invasion of his privacy. A litigant's rights gave way to the need to do justice between the parties. Confidentiality was irrelevant. Voluntary disclosure did not attract the undertaking.

2. The "full and frank disclosure principle": the invasion of a litigant's rights was counterbalanced by the limitation placed on the use to which the documents might be put in order to encourage full and frank disclosure. That was achieved by the implied undertaking by the recipient to the court.

The purpose behind rule 14A was not a matter that had to be decided in the present case. However, Mr Justice Drake's narrow interpretation of rule 14A sat uneasily with its wider wording. The decision had to be read in the light of the dicta of Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor in *Derby & Co Ltd v Weldon* (No 2) (The Times October 20, 1988):

"The purpose behind rule 14A is

to produce the result, save in truly exceptional circumstances, that once a document has been used and referred to in open court, it is a public document and no special undertaking continues."

The defendants relied on that dictum, applying it by analogy to criminal proceedings.

What was the rationale for the existence of the implied undertaking in civil proceedings?

In *Riddick v Thames Board Mills Ltd* [1977] QB 381, 396, 901-903 the Court of Appeal held that a party who disclosed a document on disclosure was entitled to the protection of the court against any use of it otherwise than in the action in which it was disclosed. In the interests of public policy and the proper administration of justice, the plaintiff was not entitled to use it as the basis for a subsequent defamation action.His Lordship also referred to *Home Office v Harman* ([1983] 1 AC 280, 300, 308; *Derby & Co Ltd v Weldon* (No 2); and *Prudential Assurance Co Ltd v Fountain Page Ltd* [1991] 1 WLR 756, 765).

It was therefore apparent that the rationale for the existence of the implied undertaking in civil proceedings was based upon:

I. The "compulsion principle": disclosure compelled a party to disclose documents and was therefore an invasion of his privacy. A litigant's rights gave way to the need to do justice between the parties. Confidentiality was irrelevant. Voluntary disclosure did not attract the undertaking.

2. The "full and frank disclosure principle": the invasion of a litigant's rights was counterbalanced by the limitation placed on the use to which the documents might be put in order to encourage full and frank disclosure. That was achieved by the implied undertaking by the recipient to the court.

The rationale advanced in these authorities was that an implied undertaking was necessary in criminal proceedings to re-serve and thus not deter informants, and fear of a flood of defamation actions.

What was the position in relation to disclosure in criminal proceedings?

In criminal proceedings the law

relating to the disclosure of documents had been a mixture of common law and statute: see *R v Bryant and Dickson* ([1946] 31 Cr App R 146; *Dalison v Caffrey* [1969] 1 QB 348; Attorney-General's Guidelines (Disclosure of Information to the Defence in Cases to be tried on Indictment) [1981] 74 Cr App R 302; *R v Ward* [1982] 96 Cr App R 11; and *R v Keane* ([1994] 1 WLR 746).The Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996 established a general regime of disclosure by both prosecution and defence, replacing the common law rules as to disclosure in their entirety and being supplementary to the other statutory rules as to disclosure: see *Archbold Criminal Pleading Evidence & Practice* (1997 paragraph 12-19).In summary, those decisions seemed to recognise the necessity of an implied undertaking in criminal proceedings. In the *British Coal Corporation v Dennis Rye Ltd* [No 2] [1998] 1 WLR 1113; *Ex parte Coventry Newspapers Ltd* [1993] QB 289; and *McGrath v Chief Constable of Lancashire* (unreported) April 3, 1996. The present court had been referred to *Taylor v Director of the Serious Fraud Office* (unreported) July 26, 1996.The Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996 established a general regime of disclosure by both prosecution and defence, replacing the common law rules as to disclosure in their entirety and being supplementary to the other statutory rules as to disclosure: see *Archbold Criminal Pleading Evidence & Practice* (1997 paragraph 12-19).

Although Mr Justice Brook's decision predated the Act, it was interesting to note the provisions of section 17(1) to (5) which dealt with the confidentiality of disclosed information.

His Lordship concluded that in the absence of a public interest immunity ruling to the contrary there never had been a letter on the subsequent use of documents which had been used in the criminal process and the 1996 Act confirmed that.

Was it appropriate to apply an implied undertaking in criminal proceedings by analogy with the implied undertaking which existed in civil proceedings?

The plaintiffs submitted that the rationale for the existence of the implied undertaking in civil proceedings was based upon:

I. The "compulsion principle": disclosure compelled a party to disclose documents and was therefore an invasion of his privacy. A litigant's rights gave way to the need to do justice between the parties. Confidentiality was irrelevant. Voluntary disclosure did not attract the undertaking.

2. The "full and frank disclosure principle": the invasion of a litigant's rights was counterbalanced by the limitation placed on the use to which the documents might be put in order to encourage full and frank disclosure. That was achieved by the implied undertaking by the recipient to the court.

In the *Ex parte Coventry Newspapers* case the existence of an implied undertaking was assumed and the only issue before the court was its variation.The *McGrath* case did decide that an implied undertaking applied to the "used" material as defined in that case. Mr Justice Forbes declined to draw a distinction between used and unused material. In *Taylor* the documents in question had not been read or referred to in open court.

The rationale advanced in those authorities was that an implied undertaking was necessary in criminal proceedings to re-serve and thus not deter informants, and fear of a flood of defamation actions.

They rejected the notion that the imposition of an implied undertaking was necessary on strong public policy grounds since otherwise

prosecuting authorities would be deterred from strictly complying with their legal obligations of frank disclosure to the criminal defence solicitors.

The reasons for implying the undertaking in civil proceedings were not relevant in the criminal context, the plaintiffs submitted. If those rationales had no application, or rarely applied, to criminal proceedings, the court ought not to imply the undertaking in criminal proceedings.

The defendants submitted that it was an equitable principle of general application that where a person received documents from another, by means of compulsory disclosure, in particular legal proceedings, he was under a legal obligation not to use them for any purpose other than the conduct of those proceedings in which they were disclosed, without the prior leave of the court.

They submitted that the reason for the implied undertaking in civil proceedings applied even greater force to criminal cases to protect informants.

His Lordship could find no basis for an implied undertaking in the Rules of the Supreme Court which suggested that privacy and confidentiality, in the present case it was conceded that there no confidentiality arose.

The 1996 Act provided some indication of the intention of the legislature on confidentiality of documents in the criminal law process. It established a general regime of disclosure by the Crown and the defence enhancing the common law position.

The effect of section 17 was to draw a distinction between used and unused material to prevent unused material by requiring it to be treated confidentially. Thus if a document was displayed in open court, or the information within it

had been communicated to the public in open court, no such restriction applied, and the document might be used or disclosed by the accused without restriction.

Parliament evidently considered it inappropriate to attach confidentiality in respect of material that had been disclosed to the defence and would be, or had been, used in open court.

Consequently, his Lordship could discern no overriding public policy argument for the restriction of material disclosed during criminal proceedings and used in open court.

There was no compelling reason for the implied undertaking on the ground that its absence would deter informants from coming forward. The honest had nothing to fear. The anonymity of those in peril could be protected by absolute privilege or public interest immunity.

It was in the interests of justice that the dishonest should be deterred from disseminating calumny and perverting the course of justice. Thus, in practice, there was only a small risk to informants and it was hardly a floodgate situation.

Moreover, as a matter of public policy a person who was the victim of malicious false statements to regulatory bodies who wished to put the record straight ought not to be met by blanket protection of the kind advocated by the defendants. Qualified privilege was sufficient protection leaving the victim plaintiff to prove malice.

Accordingly, it was not appropriate to imply an undertaking in criminal proceedings by analogy with the implied undertaking which existed in civil proceedings.

Exceptional or special circumstances in the criminal context could exist but should be confined to matters of public interest immunity and absolute privilege.

The result of public policy, proper administration of civil justice and abuse of civil process had no relevance in the criminal sphere where the rules of disclosure were

related to the use of "certified" in the association's name. It was said that the name connote that the association maintained a system for ensuring a level of professional qualification, standing and competence on the part of its members, and an organisation that operated a genuine system of monitoring and self-regulation.

The potentially damaging nature of an enforced change of name should only be visited on the company if real cause was shown. Merely failure by the company to prove that its name was not misleading was not enough to give the court grounds to confirm the order.

Mr Christopher Ellisor for the association: Mr Jonathan Crow for the secretary of state.

MR JUSTICE JACOB said section 32 had not previously been considered judicially. The application was not an appeal: there was no machinery for the court to examine the materials on which the secretary of state made his decision and no formal requirement on the secretary of state to give reasons. Nor was it some kind of judicial review.

It seemed to their Lordships, on reading the remarks, that the judge almost certainly did not intend to give the impression that he was increasing the sentence because of the conduct of the上诉人. He submitted that it was objectionable for the judge to hold it against the present appellant what others might or might not have done in the conduct of their defense.

The applicant company was not required to prove that its name was not misleading and the court should decide whether the name was misleading at the date of the judgment, rather than that of the original order.

Mr Justice Jacob so held in the Chancery Division dismissing an application from the Association of Certified Public Accountants of Britain that a direction issued by the secretary of state on February 22, 1996 that the name by which it was registered should be changed because it gave so misleading an indication of the nature of its activities as to be likely to cause harm to the public.

The applicant company was not required to prove that its name was not misleading and the court should decide whether the name was misleading at the date of the order but not misleading by the date of judgment.

It followed that the court must consider the matter de novo on the evidence brought before it, which might or might not be the same as the evidence before the secretary of state of that date.

Section 32 of the Companies Act 1985 provides: "(1) If in the secret-

ary of state's opinion the name by which a company is registered gives so misleading an indication of the nature of its activities as to be likely to cause harm to the public, he may direct it to change its name ..

(3) The company may, within a period of three weeks from the date of the direction, apply to the court to set it aside and the court may set the direction aside or confirm it."

Mr Christopher Ellisor for the association: Mr Jonathan Crow for the secretary of state.

MR JUSTICE JACOB said section 32 had not previously been considered judicially. The application was not an appeal: there was no machinery for the court to examine the materials on which the secretary of state made his decision and no formal requirement on the secretary of state to give reasons. Nor was it some kind of judicial review.

It followed that the court must consider the matter de novo on the evidence brought before it, which might or might not be the same as the evidence before the secretary of state of that date.

Both sides were at liberty to put in evidence dealing with matters related to the use of "certified" in the association's name. It was said that the name connote that the association maintained a system for ensuring a level of professional qualification, standing and competence on the part of its members, and an organisation that operated a genuine system of monitoring and self-regulation.

The jurisdiction was not summarised and the date by which the misleading nature of the name was to be judged was the date of judgment, not the date of the order. It would generally be enough for the court to take a broad brush approach to determining costs in cases where the name was misleading at the time of the order but not misleading by the date of judgment.

It was not enough to show that the name was misleading, a likelihood of harm must also be shown. In many cases the latter might follow from the former, but not necessarily: it was difficult to imagine harm if a company called Robin Jacob (Fishmongers) Ltd in fact carried on the business of bookbinding.

Anyone could set himself up in business and call himself an accountant. A variety of bodies or associations conferred the right on members to describe themselves by some title. Not all accountants were entitled to perform all accounting tasks.

The secretary of state's case

related to the use of "certified" in the association's name. It was said that the name connote that the association maintained a system for ensuring a level of professional qualification, standing and competence on the part of its members, and an organisation that operated a genuine system of monitoring and self-regulation.

His Lordship concluded that the name was likely to mislead and do harm to the public, who would be likely to be willing to pay more for members' services if they thought them "certified".

Solicitors: Wolfson & Co, Old Trafalgar: Treasury Solicitor.

Company name change order

Association of Certified Public Accountants of Britain v Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

Before Mr Justice Jacob

Judgment May 21

An application under section 32 of the Companies Act 1985 to set aside a direction made by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry that the company change its name must be heard by the court on the evidence brought before it.

The applicant company was not required to prove that its name was not misleading and the court should decide whether the name was misleading at the date of the order but not misleading by the date of judgment.

The court must consider the matter de novo on the evidence brought before it, which might or might not be the same as the evidence before the secretary of state of that date.

Both sides were at liberty to put in evidence dealing with matters

Power to restrain ballot breach

Spencer v Huggett and Another

Before Mr Justice Longmore

Judgment April 18

There was a strong prima facie case that the court had jurisdiction to grant an injunction to restrain a breach of section 115(2)(b) of the Representation of the People Act 1983, and accordingly the court had jurisdiction to entertain applications for interlocutory injunctions thereof.

Mr Justice Longmore so held in the Chancery Division dismissing an application from the Association of Certified Public Accountants of Britain that the court had jurisdiction to entertain an application for an interlocutory injunction by the plaintiff for an injunction to restrain a breach of section 115(2)(b) of the Representation of the People Act 1983.

The court had jurisdiction to entertain an application for an interlocutory injunction by the plaintiff for an injunction to restrain a breach of section 115(2)(b) of the Representation of the People Act 1983.

However, even if that were so, and the rights conferred by section 115(2)(b) were purely public, the plaintiff might be able to show that they would suffer damage peculiar to themselves from any interference with the public right to vote.

Mr Justice Longmore so held in the Chancery Division dismissing an application from the Association of Certified Public Accountants of Britain that the court had jurisdiction to entertain an application for an interlocutory injunction by the plaintiff for an injunction to restrain a breach of section 115(2)(b) of the Representation of the People Act 1983.

The court had jurisdiction to entertain an application for an interlocutory injunction by the plaintiff for an injunction to restrain a breach of section 115(2)(b) of the Representation of the People Act 1983.

However, even if that were so, and the rights conferred by section 115(2)(b) were purely public, the plaintiff might be able to show that they would suffer damage peculiar to themselves from any interference with the public right to vote.

Mr Justice Longmore so held in the Chancery Division dismissing an application from the Association of Certified Public Accountants of Britain that the court had jurisdiction to entertain an application for an interlocutory injunction by the plaintiff for an injunction to restrain a breach of section 115(2)(b) of the Representation of the People Act 1983.

The court had jurisdiction to entertain an application for an interlocutory injunction by the plaintiff for an injunction to restrain a breach of section 115(2)(b) of the Representation of the People Act 1983.

However, even if that were so, and the rights conferred by section 115(2)(b) were purely public, the plaintiff might be able to show that they would suffer damage peculiar to themselves from any interference with the public right to vote.

Mr Justice Longmore so held in the Chancery Division dismissing an application from the Association of Certified Public Account

THE TIMES THURSDAY JUNE 12 1997



■ FILM 1

The effervescent Whoopi Goldberg doesn't convince in the antique comic fantasy of *The Associate*



■ FILM 2

... and a parade of famous faces can't improve an ostentatious gangster parody, *Trigger Happy*



■ FILM 3

... but *johns* survives its unpromising title to offer a warm portrait of male friendship



■ FILM 4

... and the crazy stunts in *Shadow Conspiracy* are fun, even if the terrible script isn't

CINEMA: Geoff Brown on Whoopi Goldberg as a distaff Doubtfire on Wall Street in the disappointing *The Associate*

Interest rate goes down as well as up

Roll up! Roll up! This Sunday is National Cinema Day, when every seat at every cinema is yours for £1. When the event was first held last year, more than a million people joined the stampede. Some spent the entire day in the dark.

How appropriate it would be if this week's releases were big ad bold, or small and beautiful, or otherwise worthy of the extra attention. But what do we find? *The Associate*.

The first name to hit you on the posters is Whoopi Goldberg's although connoisseurs might be more intrigued by the small print's reference to the producer, Frederic Golchan.

A former Wall Street broker Golchan has found a new lease of life repackaging popular French movies for Hollywood, whether audiences want them or not.

Still, Golchan at least allows biffs to chance to amuse themselves playing games. As we want Goldberg as a Wall Street analyst to promote, we can relish the thought of Michel Serrault in the original comedy, *L'Associé* (1979), and the finesse he might bring to the plot's central tick: the creation of an imaginary business partner, who takes the financial world by storm and remains invisible until pressure of events demands his impersonation.

Settlers' creation was an Englishman called Mr Davis. Goldberg is called Robert S. Carty. Forced to produce her globe-trotting wonder boy, Goldberg does the honours herself, kited out with elaborate makeup, a silver pony tail, bass voice and the well-padded looks of Marlon Brando mated with a hint of Ernie Wise. The film's characters take this creation as real; audiences will be much less indulgent.

Surface detail and smart New York locations provide some contemporary resonance. Like *The First Wives Club* this is a story of female empowerment and worms turning. A character such as Tim Daly's amoral snake provider room for dig at the male bastion of corporate life, while Goldberg's revenge finds a complement in the progress of Diane Wiest's secretary from mole to lion.

But deep down this is an antique comic fantasy, with

the dust still lying thick. Its history, indeed, stretches far beyond *L'Associé*. A Chilean humorist, Jenaro Prieto, thought of the story in the late 1920s, and a previous film version, *The Mysterious Mr Davis*, was made in England in 1936. Given careful handling, there is no reason why the subject should not amuse yet again; but the cast's best efforts are thrown away by a journeyman director (Donald Petrie) and a feeble script (Nick Thiel).

Nobody could accuse Larry Bishop of feeble scriptwriting. In *Trigger Happy*, which he also directs, he calls leading

The Associate
Warner West End
PG, 113 mins
Whoopi Goldberg takes on Wall Street

Trigger Happy
Warner West End
15, 93 mins
Nasty wannabe cult movie

johns
Johns, 18, 95 mins
Sympathetic drama about LA hustlers

Shadow Conspiracy
Warner West End
15, 102 mins
Enjoyably bad political thriller

The Square Circle
Curzon West End
15, 103 mins
Tame curiosity from India

characters Mick, Vic and Nick. He strings together smart remarks and in-jokes as these hoodlums squabble, pull the trigger, and sing *My Way* in the turmoil, following an underworld boss's release from a mental hospital.

As director, too, Bishop wants to be noticed. Eager to manufacture a cult movie, he adopts a style of parody portentousness, placing the cameras askew in grandiose nightclub settings, moving in tight for delicious close-ups. Nothing here is meant for real: everything is placed between cinema's equivalent of inverted commas.

This is unattractive. Bishop knew about self-advertisement

from his father's knee: he is the son of TV comedian Joey Bishop, one of the Rat Pack who cavorted on and off the screen to no one's amusement but their own. The soundtrack pays them homage: Sinatra sings, Dean Martin sings, Sammy Davis Jr sings.

Bishop's cast is as star-studded as any Park entertainment. Richard Dreyfuss is the unstable Vic. Henchmen include Gabriel Byrne and Jeff Goldblum. Decorations and hip cameos range from Ellen Barkin, Paul Anka and Richard Pryor (in a rare appearance since the onset of multiple sclerosis). The parade of talent, however, only makes this ugly and ostentatious movie seem even worse.

From Mick, Vic and Nick, we pass to a film where half the characters are called John. The film itself opts for the plural and the lower case:

johns. Things don't look good for Scott Silver's first feature.

But bear with the director's pretensions. There is no artifice in his visual approach as he follows his fictional male hustlers up and down Los Angeles's Santa Monica Boulevard one Christmas Eve. The older one, John, desperately seeks ways to replace the money tucked inside his stolen sneakers. There's a drug dealer to pay off and a birthday wish — one night's stay in the Park Plaza Hotel — to realise. The younger one, Donner, has less material needs: love, companionship.

Silver prepared for his project by walking the Boulevard, hearing hustlers' stories at \$20 a time. Not that *johns* paints a particularly realistic picture. Drug use is downpedalled, while the appearances of the character called Homeless John smack of

more of scriptwriting than life. But Silver's film is valuable for its touching portrayal of male friendship and the urge to survive. The actors, too, make the best of things. Sometimes awkward in adult roles, Lukas Haas brings a sweet naivety to the role of Donner, while David Arquette's John is fresh and forceful.

No one could apply those two adjectives to Charlie Sheen, although *Shadow*

Conspiracy, an almost enjoyably bad thriller, assumes he has charisma in spades. In scene upon scene Sheen's square, pudgy face struggles to reflect emotion as he dodges bullets, scrambles around a White House lift shaft, and hurls his mobile phone in the canal ("They're monitoring my calls!" he shouts, aggrieved). But the face only registers a perfunctory grimace, or the ghost of a cocky grin.

So why is an automation in a white trenchcoat shooting at Sheen, Special Adviser to the President? Because Sheen has been ripped off about a conspiracy. The President is pro-people, anti-vested interests, and there is a move to terminate him. History tells us that shooting an American President is easy work, comparatively, but George P. Cosmatos's film goes through such contortions in the name of high drama that common sense is defied. Even at £1 a ticket, there are better things to do with your time.

You could see the revival of *Mamma Roma*, Pasolini's second feature of 1962, in which Anna Magnani's star power is harnessed, awkwardly but compellingly, to a neo-realistic story of delinquency and social pretensions. Or a search for novelty may take you to *The Square Circle*, a commercial Indian movie, in Hindi. Trimmed by half an hour to suit western tastes, it still feels leisurely, with broad playing, gauche direction, and a slender plot diversified by musical numbers.

But what brings Amol Palekar's film to London is not its style but its subject: cross-dressing, and gender confusion. A young village girl (Sonali Kulkarni) is abducted, then raped. Her reluctant saviour is a transvestite (Nirmal Pandey), trained in childhood as a female performer. To ease her journey back home, the transvestite dresses the girl as a man: moustache, short hair, trousers.

Matinsmeam Indian audiences might be provoked by the daintiness questions posed about sexual identities and the relation between gender and social roles. Here, no stig seems likely: just mild interest, and a few yawns.



Whoopi Goldberg as the hard-done-by Wall Street analyst out for revenge in *The Associate*, a good idea spoilt by poor direction and a bad script

'Whoopi Brando'

Every week, young film fans discuss some of the latest releases...

THE ASSOCIATE
Leslie Isidor Thomas, 18:
Chop and formulaic.

TIT THORNTON, 21: A dull, puerile attempt at a *Jerry McGuire* set on Wall Street.

DIMIAN SAMUELS, 20:
Whoopi Goldberg dons her Ms Doubtfire garb, resulting in her looking like Marion Brando in this trite movie.

SARAH CROOK, 18: A witty comedy with an important message about women in the workplace.

SHADOW CONSPIRACY
Leslie: An action movie like its needs an A-list actor like Tom Cruise, not C-list Charlie Sheen.

Sheen is better off sticking to spoof films — although

SNAP VERDICT

this is pretty close to being one.

DAMIAN: An obvious and clichéd political thriller.

SARAH: Enjoyable thriller; Sheen is gorgeous.

TRIGGER HAPPY

Leslie: I think this was supposed to be a comedy.

TIT: A super soundtrack and fantastic settings make up a strange and wonderful film.

DAMIAN: Very odd.

SARAH: Stylish gangster comedy full of blood, music, guns and star cameos.

Explorers of the schnorrer

Lost delights and an irresistible brand of humour are showcased at the London Jewish Film Festival

opens today, offers a chance to uncover lost delights.

Take Max Davidson, a character actor born in Berlin in 1875, who crowned a motley silent film career in the United States with a run of some 20 two-reel comedies made for Hal Roach, the man who paired Laurel and Hardy. Davidson has Jewish stereotype written all over him: thick, bushy hair; furrowed brow; a hand always stroking his beard, or clasped to his cheekbone in horror and dismay — a gesture that shouts "Oy vey!" Surely this man belongs with coon songs and Amos 'n' Andy in the politically incorrect past?

Not so. As international audiences have recently found, and as London will discover on June 22, Davidson's films are far too funny and humane to cause even the thin-skinned offence. The gags are inventive, the plots exuberant, and the facial pantomime is a joy. Davidson is no action comic: the laughs come from his reaction to the mess around him as family and fortune undermine his craving for respectability.

His son, played by freckle-faced wonder Spec O'Donnell, is a particular burden. In *Don't Tell Everything*, O'Donnell is hidden away in drag to avoid putting off widower Davidson's new bride. In *In Pass the Gravy*, O'Donnell steals the neighbour's prize chicken and watches in agony as the corpse is served up. First Prize leg-leg and all, to its owner at dinner. These films, carefully

paced and supervised by Leo McCarey, need live audiences to work their full magic. Better prints than the grey 16mm copies currently available would also help.

Davidson died forgotten in 1950, after a dwindling career. Ernst Lubitsch, master director of continental comedy, is a far more familiar figure, though not as an actor. We think of him as the Hollywood master behind *Ninotchka* and a glittering galaxy of Paramount comedies. On June 17 the festival reminds us of his journey to freedom from Auschwitz. It is worthy, if somewhat dull.

GEOFF BROWN

• The London Jewish Film Festival is at the National Film Theatre, South Bank, London (0171-928 3252) until June 22



Ernst Lubitsch, silent film star turned respected director, and deserving of a special place in the Jewish Film Festival

ALL THE CRITICS AGREE

"Full of GRACE, HEART, GOOD HUMOUR and WONDERFUL PERFORMANCES"

★★★★★ "BEAUTIFUL & ENCHANTING"
★★★★★ "YEAR PERFECTION"

★★★★★ "EXQUISITE"
★★★★★ "MY COMPLIMENTS TO THE CHEFS!"

Big Night

MONIQUE DRIVER — TINA HORN — ROBERT ROSENSTEIN — TONY SHALHOU — STANLEY TUCCI

REVIEWED BY GALE CHÉZEL CHELSEA CINEMA RORY COOPER

NOW

With Lubitsch, the eyes have it. In *Shoe Saloon Pinkus*, from 1916, he sells shoes and flirts. In *Meyer from Berlin*, made two years later, he climbs the Alps and flirts, bony legs resplendent in lederhosen. Critics then and since balked at the energy Lubitsch lavished on his eager characters, always grasping for success. His performances are broad, abrasive and, by today's standards, virtually anti-Semitic, the American critic Andrew Sarris once wrote. But this is a harsh, imperious judgment: it is hard to resist the gaiety and conspiratorial flourish of Lubitsch's imps.

The more intrepid festivalgoer may care to sample a programme called *Shtrick-Shmalz* and *Shtereotypes* (June 16 and 22), which rounds

Scintillating... touching... witty, always surprising... Quite an achievement. Time Out

THE SQUARE CIRCLE

UNMISSABLE!

London Film Festival

BLUE DOLPHIN

EXCLUSIVE PRESENTATION COMMENCING JUNE 13

CURZON WEST END 0171 369 1722



CHOICE 1
Judith Weir's Piano Concerto receives its world premiere at Spitalfields

VENUE: Tonight at Christ Church, Commercial Street



CHOICE 2
Tricky Shakespeare: Nigel Planer opens in *All's Well That Ends Well*

VENUE: Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park, tonight

THE TIMES ARTS



NEW VIDEOS
Hawn, Keaton and Midler go for revenge against errant husbands in *The First Wives Club*



NEW CDS
Shostakovich plays Shostakovich: the piano Preludes and Fugues in a historic recording

LONDON

ART AND ANTIQUES The Grosvenor House Art Fair continues this weekend. The 10th anniversary exhibition, which attracts 60,000 visitors, opens today. Grosvenor House, Park Lane, W1 (0171-495 8743). Today, 11am-8pm; Sat and Sun, 11am-6pm. Until June 21.

SPITALFIELDS FESTIVAL The evening concert by the BT Scottish Ensemble includes the world premiere of *A Little Bit of Heaven*, a new work by the late in a series of works Weir has written for the pianist William Howard over the past 15 years. Works by Mozart, Shostakovich and Mendelssohn complete the programme. The Old Chapel, Commercial Street, E1 (0171-377 1362). Tonight, 7.30pm.

STUNTMAN MILL Let bungee-christie Marthaler's acrobatic, often hilarious production from Deutsche Schauspielhaus of *Hamlet*, showing how the Greek politicians being taught by Messalina (Muriel D'Zere Hour) have lost their hands, but red ribbons and tread carefully round the Nazi years. English National Opera, Coliseum, Coventry St, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight-Sun, 7.30pm.

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL Frances Cuka plays the Countess and Nigel Planer is Parolles in Helena Kuusisto's production of *All's Well That*

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

for news of his missing son and is led into a world of theatrical mystery. Royal Exchange, Upper Canfield Street (0171-433 9823). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats 8pm. Until July 5.

SALISBURY Robin Herford directs Alan Ayckbourn's comedy, *Time and Tide*, which explores the problems of love and life in suburbia. Salisbury Playhouse, Methwold Lane (01222 203351). Opens tonight, 8pm. Then Mon-Wed, 7.30pm Thurs-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 2.30pm. Until July 5.

ELSEWHERE

LEEDS "Tonight and tomorrow, Robert Gaskins directs the world premiere of *Groves in Phoenix* by Venetian adapted from Robert Coover's novel by Edward Carey. On Saturday, Satu Puccetti directs the company in its second year of production of *Shakespeare's Twelfth Night*. Both shows are performed in Romanian with English subtitles. The Old Vic, Queen's Yard, SE1 (0171-244 2111). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm. (B)

MANCHESTER Free adaptation by Tony Kushner of Cormac's *The Illusion*, where an old leaver (Trevor Baden) asks a magician (Richard Moore)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
■ Seats available
■ Seats at all prices

ROYAL COURT THEATRE Upstairs (Antonuk), West Street, WC2 (0171-580 5555). *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Until June 21.

TONY AND CLEM Alan McCowan and Michael Gambon as sober Alistair and Rambovert Driborg, sorting out the world at Piccadilly. The Royal Court, Wyndham's Lane (0171-416 6077). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Sat, 3pm. (B)

MASTER CLASS Paul LuPone recreates his Broadway starring role as Mana Callis in Terence McNally's *Master Class*. The cast includes a puts-up-and-squeezes singer, through the eyes of Leonard DiCaprio's *Queen's*, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 3040). Tues-Sat, 8pm; mats Sat, 3pm. (B)

TRINITY FARM APART Crucible Theatre's new novel, powerfully adapted by Bill Baggett. Co-production by Left and West Yorkshire Playhouse

LONG RUNNERS **Buddy** (0171-930 8800) New London (0171-405 0072). *The Comedy of Errors* (0171-930 8800) Shakespeare (Ardbright) Colinton (0171-369 1731). **Grease** (0171-494 1731). **An Inspector Calls** (0171-494 1731). **Les Misérables** (0171-494 1731). **La Bohème** (0171-494 1731). **Phantom of the Opera** (0171-494 1731). **The Woman in Black** (0171-838 2238). Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatres

NEW RELEASES

ALIVE AND KICKING (15) Lovely AIDS drama, with Jason Flemyng and Anthony Sher. Written by Martin Sherman. ABC: Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-851 5279). Tottenham Court Road (0171-851 6148).

CAN AIR (15) Nasty prisoners hijack their plane. Ferocious. Director: John Carpenter. ABC: Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-636 6148). Clapham Picture House (0171-851 3323). Greenwich (0171-3305 5005). Notting Hill Cinema (0171-330 1111). Kino (0171-330 1111). Marble Arch (0181-315 4214). Picturehouse Central (0181-4220 1122). Virgin: Cheltenham (0171-5098 5005). Fulham Road (0171-370 2636).

CRASH (18) David Cronenberg explores the connection between car crashes and sex. Chilly exercise in perversion from J. Ballard's novel. Arclight: Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-636 6279). Tottenham Court Road (0171-851 6148). Clapham Picture

CINEMA GUIDE

Goeff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol *) on release across the country

House (0171-495 3323) **Odeon**: Kensington (0181-315 2124) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritz** (0171-731 2121) **Virgin**: Fulham Road (0181-330 5005) **Curzon** (0171-330 1111). **Empress** (0171-494 1730) **Everyman** (0171-494 1525) **Marble Arch** (0171-487 0757) **Renzi** (0171-837 3402) **Ritz** (0171-731 2121)

THE FIFTH ELEMENT (PG-13) **Galaxy** (0171-370 2636) from Luc Besson, with Bruce Willis and the last girl who might save the world. Empire (0990 888990) **Odeon**: Kensington (0181-315 2124) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **West End** (0181-315 4221) **Empress** (0171-505 2722) **UCI**: Westminster (0171-838 2238) **Virgin**: Cheltenham (0171-352 5098) Fulham Road (0171-370 2636).

SCARFACE (18) David Cronenberg explores the connection between car crashes and sex. Chilly exercise in perversion from J. Ballard's novel. Arclight: Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-636 6279). Tottenham Court Road (0171-851 6148). Clapham Picture

Whiteley (0990 888990) **Virgins**: Cheltenham (0171-352 5098) **Palmer** (0171-270 2636)

THE INFORMER (PG) John Ford's 1935 classic, with Victor McLaglen as a IRA member who becomes a informer during the 1921 Irish Republic. Curzon Piccadilly (0171-369 1721).

MEN, WOMEN & CHILDREN (PG) **Galaxy** (0171-370 2636) **Curzon** (0171-315 2124) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Everyman** (0171-494 1525) **Marble Arch** (0171-487 0757) **Renzi** (0171-837 3402) **Ritz** (0171-731 2121)

THE FIFTH ELEMENT (PG-13) **Galaxy** (0171-370 2636) from Luc Besson, with Bruce Willis and the last girl who might save the world. Empire (0990 888990) **Odeon**: Kensington (0181-315 2124) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **West End** (0181-315 4221) **Empress** (0171-505 2722) **UCI**: Westminster (0171-838 2238) **Virgin**: Cheltenham (0171-352 5098) Fulham Road (0171-370 2636).

CRASH (18) David Cronenberg explores the connection between car crashes and sex. Chilly exercise in perversion from J. Ballard's novel. Arclight: Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-636 6279). Tottenham Court Road (0171-851 6148). Clapham Picture

Whiteley (0990 888990) **Virgins**: Cheltenham (0171-352 5098) **Palmer** (0171-270 2636)

DRIFTING CLOUDS (PG) A married couple fight Finland's recession. Tender minimalist drama from Ari Kaunismaki. Everyman (0171-494 1525) **Marble Arch** (0171-487 0757) **Renzi** (0171-837 3402) **Ritz** (0171-731 2121)

THE FIFTH ELEMENT (PG-13) **Galaxy** (0171-370 2636) from Luc Besson, with Bruce Willis and the last girl who might save the world. Empire (0990 888990) **Odeon**: Kensington (0181-315 2124) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **West End** (0181-315 4221) **Empress** (0171-505 2722) **UCI**: Westminster (0171-838 2238) **Virgin**: Cheltenham (0171-352 5098) Fulham Road (0171-370 2636).

SCARFACE (18) David Cronenberg explores the connection between car crashes and sex. Chilly exercise in perversion from J. Ballard's novel. Arclight: Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-636 6279). Tottenham Court Road (0171-851 6148). Clapham Picture

Whiteley (0990 888990) **Virgins**: Cheltenham (0171-352 5098) **Palmer** (0171-270 2636)

THE INFORMER (PG) John Ford's 1935 classic, with Victor McLaglen as a IRA member who becomes a informer during the 1921 Irish Republic. Curzon Piccadilly (0171-369 1721).

MEN, WOMEN & CHILDREN (PG) **Galaxy** (0171-370 2636) **Curzon** (0171-315 2124) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Everyman** (0171-494 1525) **Marble Arch** (0171-487 0757) **Renzi** (0171-837 3402) **Ritz** (0171-731 2121)

THE FIFTH ELEMENT (PG-13) **Galaxy** (0171-370 2636) from Luc Besson, with Bruce Willis and the last girl who might save the world. Empire (0990 888990) **Odeon**: Kensington (0181-315 2124) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **West End** (0181-315 4221) **Empress** (0171-505 2722) **UCI**: Westminster (0171-838 2238) **Virgin**: Cheltenham (0171-352 5098) Fulham Road (0171-370 2636).

SCARFACE (18) David Cronenberg explores the connection between car crashes and sex. Chilly exercise in perversion from J. Ballard's novel. Arclight: Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-636 6279). Tottenham Court Road (0171-851 6148). Clapham Picture

Whiteley (0990 888990) **Virgins**: Cheltenham (0171-352 5098) **Palmer** (0171-270 2636)

DRIFTING CLOUDS (PG) A married couple fight Finland's recession. Tender minimalist drama from Ari Kaunismaki. Everyman (0171-494 1525) **Marble Arch** (0171-487 0757) **Renzi** (0171-837 3402) **Ritz** (0171-731 2121)

THE FIFTH ELEMENT (PG-13) **Galaxy** (0171-370 2636) from Luc Besson, with Bruce Willis and the last girl who might save the world. Empire (0990 888990) **Odeon**: Kensington (0181-315 2124) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **West End** (0181-315 4221) **Empress** (0171-505 2722) **UCI**: Westminster (0171-838 2238) **Virgin**: Cheltenham (0171-352 5098) Fulham Road (0171-370 2636).

SCARFACE (18) David Cronenberg explores the connection between car crashes and sex. Chilly exercise in perversion from J. Ballard's novel. Arclight: Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-636 6279). Tottenham Court Road (0171-851 6148). Clapham Picture

Whiteley (0990 888990) **Virgins**: Cheltenham (0171-352 5098) **Palmer** (0171-270 2636)

DRIFTING CLOUDS (PG) A married couple fight Finland's recession. Tender minimalist drama from Ari Kaunismaki. Everyman (0171-494 1525) **Marble Arch** (0171-487 0757) **Renzi** (0171-837 3402) **Ritz** (0171-731 2121)

THE FIFTH ELEMENT (PG-13) **Galaxy** (0171-370 2636) from Luc Besson, with Bruce Willis and the last girl who might save the world. Empire (0990 888990) **Odeon**: Kensington (0181-315 2124) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **West End** (0181-315 4221) **Empress** (0171-505 2722) **UCI**: Westminster (0171-838 2238) **Virgin**: Cheltenham (0171-352 5098) Fulham Road (0171-370 2636).

SCARFACE (18) David Cronenberg explores the connection between car crashes and sex. Chilly exercise in perversion from J. Ballard's novel. Arclight: Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-636 6279). Tottenham Court Road (0171-851 6148). Clapham Picture

Whiteley (0990 888990) **Virgins**: Cheltenham (0171-352 5098) **Palmer** (0171-270 2636)

DRIFTING CLOUDS (PG) A married couple fight Finland's recession. Tender minimalist drama from Ari Kaunismaki. Everyman (0171-494 1525) **Marble Arch** (0171-487 0757) **Renzi** (0171-837 3402) **Ritz** (0171-731 2121)

THE FIFTH ELEMENT (PG-13) **Galaxy** (0171-370 263

THE TIMES THURSDAY JUNE 12 1997



■ THEATRE 1

A hard-working cast misses the essence of *The Winter's Tale* in Mike Alfreds's staging



■ THEATRE 2

... while the preposterous Always presents an all-singing Edward and Mrs Simpson



■ THEATRE 3

London's LIFT festival is about to enjoy a burst of surreal political satire from the Germans



■ OPERA

Rigoletto returns to Covent Garden in a poor staging but with musical values resplendent

THEATRE: Minimal cast means maximum confusion of the Bard; twittering royal lovebirds; and a LIFT from Canada

Doubles double toil and trouble

The Winter's Tale
Lyric, Hammersmith

It touring theatre, necessity is mother of inventive doubling — mother on this occasion by Mike Alfreds, the theatre's *Mad & Madness*, and the double such as to allow a company of eight present a play that lists 15 nameless characters plus sundry Lords, Ladies, Officers of the Court, Shepherds, ephemerides, the allegorical figure Time turning the clock forward years, and a bear.

The gily lumber past so quickly that one of my colleagues, joining down late at the time, quite missed its passe. Possibly the beast is in a hurry, cause the moment it leaves the stage actor must whip off the bearded stings beard or pair of shaggygoats, and reappear as Old Shepherd Young Clown reporting on whale just witnessed.

Backstage must be a maelstrom. For instance, Chris Crooks plays four significant roles: as the Gaoler, he wears balaclava and keeps to the rear of the stage; Dion returning from Apollo's ale he puts on a quaint pointy balaclava; for good old Camillo, loyal color to a brace of kings, he relies on his own white hair, and beardless cheeks, and for the dippy Clown he strips his limbs to a non-stop St Va's Dance. At the sheep-shearing one both Camillo and the Clown are on stage at the same time, and corral of the crowd — inevitably low in super — keep disappearing for a quick costume change.

This lot not necessarily lead to poor and stressful acting, and Crooks' understruck dismay as Camillo learns that his sovereign believes his queen to be an adulteress, yes, the early section of the drama's valuable point of balance, the an-irre-palace's sober response to the catarract of jealousy.

The title puts you in mind of bottles of perfume or boxes of chocolates alleged to ensure that mutual doting lasts until mutual death. The subtitle, "the ultimate love story", adds the suggestion that only Juliet had awoken earlier in her tomb, or Romeo arrived a bit late; would the musical's hero and heroine have faced serious competition? Clearly, the authors of *Always*, Wilm May and Jason Sprague, have high opinion of the affection that burgeoned between Edward VIII and Mrs Simpson.

Edo their music, book and lyrics persuade us to agree? Not really. Tri-Clive Carter's Edward keeps tell Jan Hartley's Wallis that he was to take her to a place called Alvs, "where we could love sternly and he could 'hold you there'

Wallis and Mr Dopey

Always
Victoria Palace

to me". True, they both sing that "hearts have their reasons, they fall in love, they hold their secrets, like stars above". But if such assertions were definitive proof of deep devotion, we could all throw away our copies of Andrew Marvell and John Donne, and rely on the mottoes inside Christmas crackers to rule our lives.

The authors help their thesis by ensuring that, apart from an awkward little prologue set after Edward's funeral in 1972, the action stretches from 1931 to 1937 only. This means they do not need to deal with such embarrassments as his admiration for Hitler or, for that matter, the

inevitable ups and downs of love, marriage and exile. He is an awfully decent bloke who wants to help the miners and marry the woman he fancies, and, thanks largely to Tories who don't like his politics, finds he cannot do both. So the eventing ends with him abdicating, proposing to his pleasant flapper, and intoning a reprise of *Always* with a lily in his hand: and we are left to assume that he continues to clutch the flower and

sing the song for the next 40 years. It is not exactly searching stuff, even by the standard of sentimental musicals with tunes as bland as these. Baldwin, Queen Mary, Wallis's Aunt Bessie and others wander in and out without making much impact on the heart and mind. There is some cursory dancing in a Paris nightclub and at Sybil Colefax's "party of the year". Mountbatten sympathises with Edward about love: "I've seen it happen to others, that thunderbolt". Poor Ernest Simpson sings that the American press shows pictures of his wife and "this kind of stress I don't need in my life".

Edward asserts that he is "a man, not a tailor's dummy" but, since Carter spends much of the evening on the cusp between the two, it is difficult to believe him.

Hartley fares better both as an actress and a vocalist; but then it is Carter, not she, who has to say and sing most of the doperest things. Try looking regal, charismatic and very, very nice while warbling lines like "love has invited us to a party for two, you and me the only guests, no one else in view". I can't do it, you can't do it, and I bet that from that day to this nobody in Buckingham Palace has ever done it.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

• This review appeared in some editions of The Times yesterday

CONCERTS: Elegant COE; and a mixed Philharmonia

Serenade overdose

Almost, but not quite: Haitink would give the extra lift to a phrase, point a flash of colour in a modulation, guide the breathing of the strings.

Haitink's supportive understanding of the human voice came into its own in Wagner's *Wesendonck-Lieder*. This was a platform for the young American mezzo-soprano Michele DeYoung, who will make her Proms debut this summer, and who will eventually sing Fricka for Haitink with the Royal Opera. She is statuesque of physique, leaner than nine, and has a voice strong enough to roar with the "wheel of time" in *Die Walküre*!

When you have a programme including masterpieces such as Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto and Brahms's Symphony No 4, you do not expect the best performance to be the overture — on this occasion, that to Glinka's opera *Asyl* and *Ludmilla*. That, however, was the case in the second of Mikhail Pletnev's three concerts with the Philharmonia at the Festival Hall on Sunday night.

Glinka's rollicking overture, to be sure, requires dazzling fingerwork from the strings, absolute precision of ensemble, and some nifty interweaving between the departments. All of this was brought off in exemplary fashion by the Philharmonia and Pletnev.

Sadly, nothing that followed was quite on this level. The soloist in the Tchaikovsky was

off with a bang

17-year-old David Garrett, a German violinist who is now on his third disc for Deutsche Grammophon, but without the excessive hype that accompanies most teenage virtuosos these days. Garrett has a good, solid technique, but one could not honestly say that his execution was exceptional by today's standards.

What character there was in the performance came largely from Pletnev, but even this was disappointing: the local colour one might have hoped he would bring to bear — in the melancholy folk song of the Canzonetta or the wild

Cossack dancing of the finale — was painted in watery tones. Similarly understated was Pletnev's reading of the Brahms. Among its strengths were the nicely pointed phrases of the first movement, and its unhurried, ambulatory flow. But one missed the shadows cast across the face of the music or any real characterisation of various thematic ideas.

Amends were made in the Scherzo, whose glittering virtuosity recalled the orchestra's form in the Glinka overture. The tight formal structure of the passacaglia finale also benefited from Pletnev's approach, and the closing pages at last revealed a strength of purpose.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Cad to stir the blood

ONE of the side-benefits of the Royal Opera's Verdi Festival should have been a new production of *Rigoletto*, but no such luck — we are stuck with the dim Nuria Espert version for a little longer. At least the revival director, Jeremy Sutcliffe, has expunged some of the less helpful ideas (the meaningless dumbshow in the

prelude, and Maddalena appearing in the first act), but there's not a lot he can do with a staging that in the interests of pretty stage pictures places the action too far upstage. *Rigoletto* isn't about pretty stage pictures.

But there are many good reasons for catching this latest revival. Danièle Gatti conducts the score as though it were composed yesterday, taking nothing for granted: brass and woodwind colouring is applied with great care (the orchestra was at its most responsive) and the tunes really "sing". You may not agree with everything Gatti does — I certainly don't with his breakneck speed for *Corigliano*, or some "arty" phrasing in the Quartet — but you have to admire his consistently creative, searching approach to an old warhorse of a score.

And in Ramón Vargas there is the best Duke of



Ramón Vargas's fine duke with Viktoria Loukianetz

Mantua to have been heard at the Garden for many years. His tone is beautifully honeyed, his phrasing elegant and sensuous, and he plays this dreadful cad with the sort of boyish charm that for once makes you understand why all the girls fall for him. The girls on Tuesday were Viktoria Loukianetz, a sweetly expressive, very credible Gilda with enough steel in her tone to ride the later acts, and the Albanian mezzo Enkelejda Shkosa's homely, very Mediterranean Maddalena — a house debut and a real find.

Franz Grundheber, the outstanding Wozzeck of the day and familiar here only in the German repertory (he sings all the big Verdi roles at home), was the hunchback. He is a wonderfully

communicative actor, and there were many unforgettable moments: the inwardness of his cries of *Figaro*; at the end of the first-act duet, the way he seemed to shed his hump in the finale, rising to full tragic stature. He was hampered in his duet with Gilda by having to sing so far away from the audience and the orchestra, and may be true Veridian *legato* eluded him in too loud an appeal to the couriers. But, as a dramatic reading of a great tragic role, this was profoundly stirring.

There were lively supporting performances from Timothy Robinson (Borsa) and Robert Lloyd, celebrating 25 years at the Garden with his gravelly Sparafucile.

RODNEY MILNES

Plays sans frontières

Jeremy Kingston on surreal moments at a Montreal festival

A mbling down the busy boulevards of Montréal, I discovered the word *strip-teaseuses*, a French noun you might not have thought existed, and perhaps in France it doesn't. Strip-tease can be dramatic in any language, but I was in Canada to visit a different branch of theatre, the Festival de Théâtre des Amériques. This is a biennial gathering that began in 1985, concentrated on celebrating the new productions of the New World, but has since extended to include the other four continents.

Nowadays, if a company comes up with a production deemed to have international appeal, it can go circling the world's network of festivals for months. Years, even, like the circus cum rock concert of Argentina's *Pericota villa villa*, first performed in 1995. Both this and William Yang's autobiographical monologue and slide-show, *The North*, are showing in London this week as part of LIFT.

As is the Deutsches Schauspielhaus Hamburg production of *Stunde Null* (Zero Hour), a bracingly critical look at German politicians that opened the Montreal Festival and comes into London tonight.

Christopher Marthaler, the Swiss-born director of this production, has said that critics should pay less attention to a director's contribution and instead consider the work done collectively by the ensemble. Certainly the teamwork displayed by his nine actors is exceptionally crisp and coordinated. Their postures, gestures and movement can whip the mood swiftly from despatchedly funny clowning to head-shaking dismay. But it is Marthaler's own vision that presides over the evening, so that anyone fortunate enough to have seen his prizewinning *Murz* at LIFT two years ago, desolate and hilarious, will recognise his style.

Stunde Null was Marthaler's answer to a request by the German political authorities to create a work commemorating the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. Seven grey-suited politicians have come to some sort of work camp to learn how to cut ribbons, smile to the camera while shaking hands and, most important, make speeches that sound tremendous and commit them to nothing.

Essentially elderly babies, they are supervised by a severe Fraulein whose lectures are so stupefyingly boring that one after another they fall sideways off their chairs. As in *Murz* a harsh Beckett-like bell punctuates their lessons, and pipework visible above the shirking wood panels suggests that they could be in a bunker deep underground. They are certainly profoundly out of touch with the people to whom their speeches will be addressed, and which they rehearse, all together, in a cacophony of gobbledegook.

These speeches have been concocted by Marthaler and Stefanie Carp from actual speeches delivered by Adenauer et al. full of empty urgency, rhetorical appeals to youth and nervous evasions. One speaker can never bring himself to voice the word "war" — and I am given to understand that one real-life politician actually used to talk of *friedlosigkeit* or "peacelessness". The presence of an actor bearing a more than passing resemblance to Chancellor Kohl hoists the production onto an impressive level of surrealism.

The surreal turned out to be a form embraced by several Quebec-based companies. In Théâtre Ubu's *Les trois derniers jours de Fernando Pessoa*, laudanum-induced doppelgängers appeared at the dying man's bedside, unnaturally tall or dwarfish and made of painted cardboard. Movement was minimal. I found it hard going. But festivals are like a cascade of events hurtling past. With the Marquis de Sade, perhaps, offering croissants to his audience at a 7.30am breakfast show. Or an Italian *Orestes* played by naked clowns. I wonder what word the Italians use for strip-tease.

• *Stunde Null* is at the Queen Elizabeth Hall (0171-312 1994) from tonight to Sunday

Messages from the other side

CHARTWELL DUTIRO, the force behind Spirit Talk Mbira, describes the sound made by the group as the "original trance music". The subtle rhythms of the "thumb piano", amplified by its surrounding gourd, have been used for centuries in his native Zimbabwe to call ancestors and seek their spirits' guidance. Dutiro is dedicated to spreading the word about his mbira music worldwide through workshops, teaching and concerts, and has just led his group on an Arts Council tour of the UK, culminating in this South Bank concert.

The secret of the music's considerable appeal lies in its hypnotic, gently ambiguous rhythms and the unaffected purity of its overall sound. Whether the repeated chants are meditating on the bounty provided by bees or fruit trees, exploring the vagaries of spirit possession, or simply celebrating the delights of beer drinking, the combination of the softly propulsive mbira polyrhythms, plangent antiphonal vocals and gently insistent hosho (seed-filled gourds) is, at its best, utterly beguiling. Dutiro, too, is a charismatic presence, frequently abandoning his mbira duties to pounce about in the audience, pausing occasionally to dance on the spot, singing all the while with his onstage partners.

While there is no doubt about the group's skill and commitment, or the authenticity and sincerity of the music they produce, there is a fundamental problem with its pre-

sentation. Like most traditional African music, it springs naturally from, and is deeply rooted in, its specific social context. The group's debut CD, indeed, is titled *Ndonga Mahwe*, which refers to the musical beginning of a three-day ceremony to bring back the spirit of a deceased villager.

Transposing such music to a formal seated concert venue presents considerable difficulties. It might have been better had he accepted the limitations imposed by the setting and resigned himself to giving a species of illustrated musical lecture, as he does so informatively on his CD sleeve, instead, he attempted to conjure up, single-handedly, the atmosphere of Zimbabwe, with distinctly mixed results.

Sporadic enthusiastic audience participation is not something British concert-goers are renowned for. On this occasion, the music's rhythmic grace and elegance was compromised by their over-emphatic arbitrary clapping, and space for dancing was necessarily restricted, so the integrity and energy of Dutiro and his group left a stronger impression than the spiritual intensity of their music.

CHRIS PARKER

Happy birthday, dear Dracula: Erica Wagner sinks her teeth into three books that celebrate Bram Stoker's ghastly Count on his centenary

Lively tales from the Un-Dead

Dracula seems made for the movies. He defies the centuries, grows older, then younger, transforms himself into coils of white must and scuttles headfirst down the precipitous walls of his Transylvanian castle, a mode of propulsion rather more lizard than bat. He is a special effect incarnate — or rather, uncarnate, for whether one Un-Dead can be said to have flesh is a moot point. And he is, of course, only a literary creation, but so far has Count Dracula entered the collective imagination that it is hard to believe that he or his kind do not stalk the earth.

Constable paid no advance to Bram Stoker for the typescript manuscript he delivered to them in May of 1897; in fact, he would receive no money at all until the book sold 1,000 copies, at which point he would receive £1. id. on subsequent books sold. The first run was 3,000 copies — one of which is now on sale at Bulleidbooks, in Boston, for \$9.50.

At the time of its publication, one reader was convinced the book would be the making of Stoker, who earned his living first as civil servant and

then as secretary and touring manager for the actor Henry Irving. "No book since Mrs Shelley's *Frankenstein* or indeed any other at all has come near yours in originality, or terror — Poe is nowhere... it should make a widespread reputation and much money for you." Unfortunately the admiration of one's mother, however delightful, is not always a reliable pointer to success. Neither Stoker, nor Constable, made any immediate fortune from his tale, but it was a slow burn, and *Dracula* — with its blend of sexual and seductive anti-hero, playing and preying on modern fears and dreams — is still selling 600 copies a month.

Constable are proud of having backed, however guardedly, the dark fantasy from the start. To mark the centenary they have now produced Peter Haining and Peter Tremayne's *The Un-Dead: The Legend of Bram Stoker and Dracula*. Unlike Barbara

Belford's *Bram Stoker*, Haining and Tremayne look at Stoker's life almost exclusively from the vampiric standpoint, although they will stray enough from the bloody path to reproduce a letter, written by Stoker in 1872, to his new hero Walt Whitman: "How sweet a thing it is for a strong healthy man with a woman's eyes and a child's wishes to feel that he can speak so to man who can be if he wishes, father, and brother and wife to his soul..." Whitman and Stoker did eventually meet, and the poet found the clerk "like a breath of good, healthy, breezy sea air".

Thankfully, Haining and Tremayne do not really go in for sexual psychologising. Stoker worshipped Whitman, married his friend Oscar Wilde's ex, seems to have dropped Oscar like a hot rock at the time of his "disgrace", and shortly thereafter wrote a novel whose sexual paraphrase seems all too clear to the modern reader. This is

murky ground, and if you wish to tread here you will find plenty to entertain you in several of the essays that come at the end of the Norton edition of *Dracula*. Haining and Tremayne are keen to trace the mythic, rather than the psychic, pedigree of Dracula. They place the vam-



RONALD GRANT ARCHIVE
Vampire vision: Nosferatu, Max Schreck, 1922

pire firmly in an Irish tradition of spirits, emphasising the importance of Stoker's mother's tales of ghosts and hauntings. They note, too, that the Irish for "bad blood" is *drach-fhola* (pronounced not unlike our hero's name), and that there is a Kerry folk tale about

"One wonders what thoughts passed through Bram Stoker's mind... 'Maybe he did, and one does, but it doesn't really get one anywhere. Despite this, and a slight descent into graverobber pedantry, this is an entertaining and well-researched trawl through Stoker's influences and antecedents, and should send the reader hastening back to its progenitor.'

In which case, you might wish to invest in the new Norton edition, handsome and pleasing to read. Where Haining and Tremayne contend that "factual accuracy characterises *Dracula*", the footnotes provided by the editors here reveal an author not always over-concerned with consistency in the rush and power of his tale. They are fine on highlighting what might arrest the Victorian reader ("the word *strange* in late Victorian England was often suffused with homoerotic undercurrents") and provide contemporary reaction as well as

modern criticism — including an essay by Christopher Craddock which christens the vampire-destroying posse "Van Helsing and His Crew of Light"; catch them next week at a Brixton Academy...

The *Mammoth Book of Dracula* (which opens with the first publication of Stoker's own stilted stage version of his book) attempts to update Count. Here are mystics, strangers with strong, white aplenty, mystifiers and mesmerised by the moon world, severing arteries and sucking blood. But we are not so easily shocked: we know who Dracula is. The Count taken out of his comic comes across as curiously unfashioned. Would he recognise any kinship with Anne's glamorous Lestat?

He seems made for the movies. And yet what film has truly captured him this kind? Bela Lugosi, with his high collar and campy eyes, engraved an image of Dracula on 20th-century consciousness; but it is only a single image. Return to the novel for the real Dracula, ageless, powerful, secretive, cruel. He is elusive, active, we fear him and want him. He is fine company still.

Battle for the no man's land of the mind

John Forrester is well known for his translations of Lacan and for his books on psychoanalysis. This excellent collection of essays is elegantly readable. The title essay presents a measured, reasonable defence of Freud which neither conceals his flaws nor blackens his character.

In contrast, Frederick Crews's polemical onslaught upon Freud is neither measured nor reasonable. It originated in an article first published in *The New York Review of Books*. This will already be familiar to anyone interested in the re-evaluation of Freud and psychoanalysis which has been taking place in recent years. It is followed by two further articles on the "revived memory movement". The rest of the book consists of the flood of letters which his articles provoked, with his replies and an Afterword.

Some readers may recall that I reviewed Mark Pendergrast's book *Victims of Memory* (HarperCollins, £14.99) in *The Times* not long ago. Both Crews and I think highly of Pendergrast's study, which demonstrates that some therapists can persuade some gullible patients to recall incidents of childhood sexual abuse which never took place. However, agreement with Crews in this respect does not commit anyone to go along with the rest of his attack upon Freud, which is so intemperate that even psychiatrists like myself who are highly critical of Freud feel appalled by Crews's portrayal of Freud as a dishonest crook, and his lack of appreciation of the positive aspects of Freud's legacy.

Freud was a great clinical observer and a great writer. He permanently altered the way we talk, write, and think about human nature. Though

there is no evidence that psychoanalysis, in its original form, is a more effective form of psychotherapy than any other, every psychotherapist owes a debt to Freud.

In Freud's day, physicians were great men who handed out advice, prescriptions, and instructions. By abandoning this role, Freud taught us how to listen, and established a form of treatment in which patients learn to help themselves. This remains his most important contribution.

Freud wanted to be an impersonal investigator. But he found that his patients would not allow this, and made him into a father-figure, an idealised lover, or a saviour. Freud overcame his initial disaster for this phenomenon and named it "transference". By understanding the patient's emotional attitude to the analyst, it becomes possible to understand and modify his relationships with people outside the consulting-room. Transference remains Freud's second most important discovery.

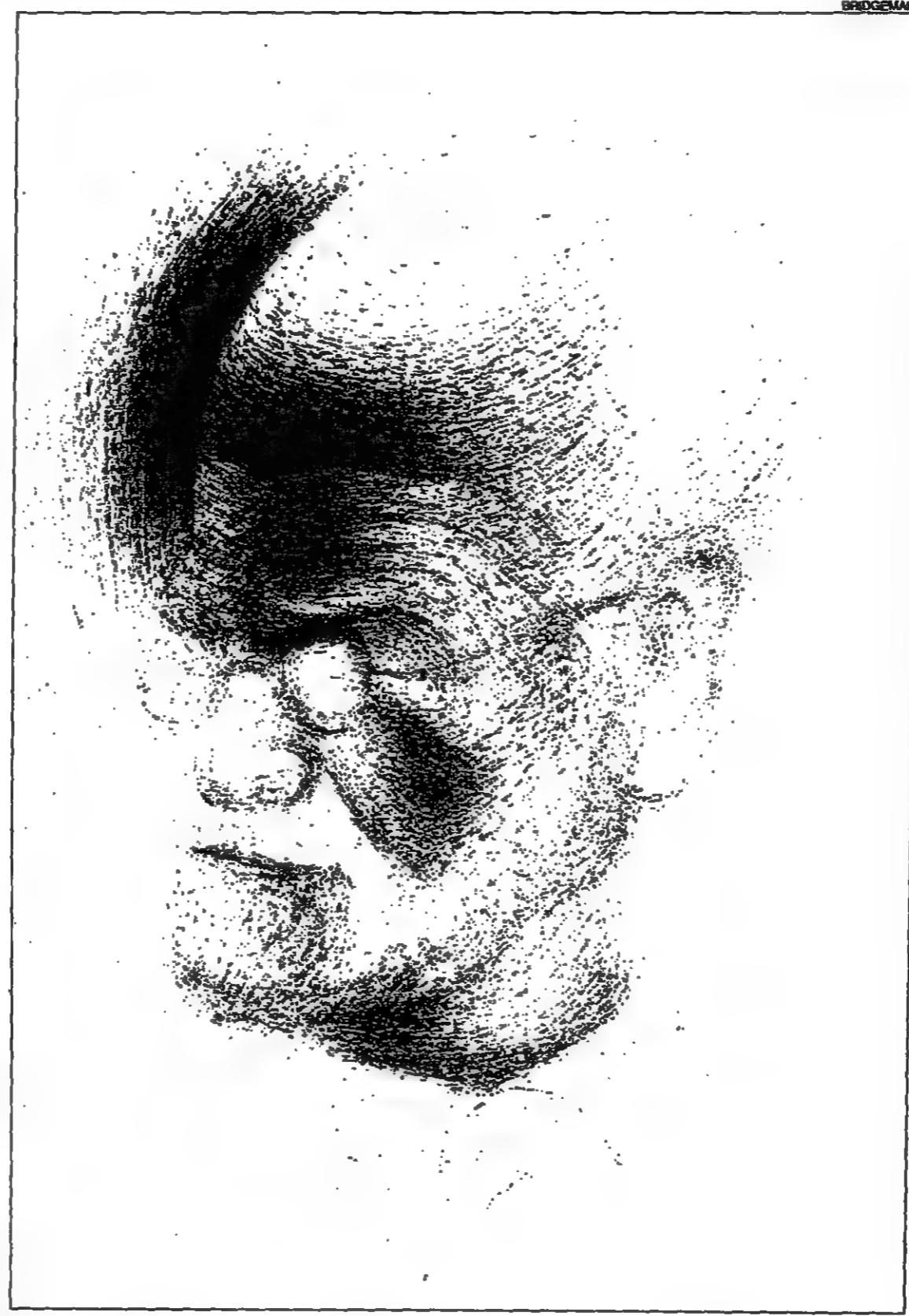
Unfortunately, psychoanalysis became a cult, offering a secular path to salvation. Freud, who was well aware of the requirements of scientific truth, abandoned them and became a guru, interpreting psychological data in terms of his own theoretical preconceptions. But he was misguided rather than wicked. As his erstwhile colleague Breuer said of him: "Freud is a man given to absolute and exclusive formulations: this is a psychical need which, in my opinion, leads to excessive generalisation." Although Freud did not lead us into the promised land, 20th-century man is still greatly indebted to him, and it is possible to judge his contribution fairly without either being a psychoanalytic convert or a vicious enemy.

Freud was a great clinical observer and a great writer. He permanently altered the way we talk, write, and think about human nature. Though

Anthony Storr
DJSPATCHES FROM THE FREUD WARS
By John Forrester
Harvard University Press, £18.50
ISBN 0 674 53601 5
THE MEMORY WARS
By Frederick Crews
Granada, £4.99
ISBN 1 8637 0105

ships with people outside the consulting-room. Transference remains Freud's second most important discovery.

Unfortunately, psychoanalysis became a cult, offering a secular path to salvation. Freud, who was well aware of the requirements of scientific truth, abandoned them and became a guru,



Shadowy legacy of a doctor who made himself into a guru: Sigmund Freud by Salvador Dali, July 1938

Take me home, country road — straight back to the city



Smashing the pot plants: Cusk follows in the footsteps of Jane Eyre with her steely, sharp-eyed heroine

Helen Dunmore admires the highly wrought comedy of Rachel Cusk's third novel

THE COUNTRY LIFE
By Rachel Cusk
Picador, £15.99
ISBN 0 330 34928 8

houses. "My first thought on seeing these pots and baskets was to smash them," she observes. Stella, like Jane Eyre, is pure steel. She appraises her employers until she can manipulate them, and the weaker she appears, the greater her eventual triumphs. Everything about Stella is deceptive, because she conceals her personality almost as successfully as she conceals her past.

TIMES BOOKS

SATURDAY

John Naughton on the world of Bill Gates; Helen Dunmore on the talking dogs that take over New York; Donald Watt on the latest science fiction

impossible narrowness." This gut-wrenching progress down the country lanes leads to a "group session", led with gruesome coyness by a staff member whose real interest lies in slandering the Maddens.

Cusk has taken the pulse of a very strange society in this novel. This is the English countryside in the 1990s, but the incivility of the masters and the revenge of their servants are timeless themes. The growth of Stella's affection for Stella cuts across all the barriers. Stella has made herself into an outsider, but Martin has been born disabled and can value precisely what she is throwing away. For all his social and economic privileges, he has to fight hard for admission into the world which surrounds him. He gets under Stella's guard and goods her into intimacy. Like Jane Eyre, she must begin to disclose herself before she can be loved or believed.

The Country Life is much tougher and funnier than Rachel Cusk's last novel, *The Temporary*. Like the novels of Evelyn Waugh or Stella Gibbons, *The Country Life* has a moral core, mercilessly disguised by comedy. Cusk is a highly interesting, original writer and more unusually, she is a joy to read.

Helen Dunmore's Love of Fat Men is published by Viking, priced £16.

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

ANNE FRANK UNCENSORED

Save £2 on the publisher's price

Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl

The definitive edition published by Viking (RRP £16) features a new translation by Susan Massotty, edited by Otto H. Frank and Mirjam Pressler.

- You can also buy ANY English-language book currently in print
- FREE UK p&p ● Delivery in 7-10 days, subject to availability
- 24-hour service. Staff available 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm Saturday, and 10am to 4pm Sunday

CALL: 0345 660 916 CALLS CHARGED AT LOCAL RATE

Call +44 990 134 459 from overseas and the Republic of Ireland, fax +44 1326 374 888. e-mail: bookshop@the-times.co.uk

Or post coupon to: News Books, FREEPOST, PO Box 345, Falmouth, TR1 2BR. Please send me these books (order additional titles on a separate sheet)

Qty **Title/Author** **Telephone**

Surname **Initial** **Title**

Address

Postcode **Tel**

I enclose cheque/P.O. payable to NEWS BOOKS for a total of £

Please write your name and address on the back of all cheques

Debit my Mastercard/Visa/American Express/Delta account no:

Print Name **Expiry Date**

Signature **Date**

For Republic of Ireland and overseas orders add 20% to total book cost. Delivery is by airmail in Europe, surface to rest of world. (Airmail outside Europe add 5%).

The suggested retail price of a book can be subject to change by the publisher without prior notice. Tick box if you prefer not to receive details of other offers

ad
SUNDAY JUNE 14, 1997
THE TIMES THURSDAY JUNE 12 1997

Jeanette Winterson on a writer whose political significance is greater than her literary legacy

Girls will be boys

A dangerous and corrupting book! "An obscene book," "Acts of the most horrible, unnatural and disgusting obscenity." A book prejudicial to the morals of the community."

The Well of Loneliness was banned in Britain a few months after its publication in 1928. There are no descriptions of sex in it, no rude words, and the lesbian lovers do not live happily ever after. It was published by Jonathan Cape in the same year as two other books on the boundaries of propriety: Compton Mackenzie's *Extraordinary Women*, a cheap satire on cross-dressing invents, and Virginia Woolf's *Orlando*, whose first edition included pictures of the sapphic Vita Sackville-West, dressed as a boy. All three books sold briskly. Only Radclyffe Hall's *The Well of Loneliness* was seized and taken to trial. It was not officially republished in Britain until the Sixties.

Radclyffe Hall, known to her friends as John, was rich, conspicuous, open about her sexuality and very attractive to women. She had no difficulty in finding lovers, married or not, and her lifelong partner, Una, Lady Troubridge, had abandoned her marriage to Admiral Troubridge to set up home with John. This had caused something of a scandal at the time, and it may explain the hostility towards Radclyffe Hall.

Sexual indiscretion of all kinds could be tolerated, provided it was handled with the expected secrecy. To be open and straightforward, to publicly take a man's wife away from him, and to establish the new liaison with plenty of show and cash, did Hall no favours among the Establishment. Ten years later, her decision to publish *The Well* gave them their chance of revenge.

She was an established author already. She had won the Prix Femina for her novel *Adam's Breed*. Her books were popular sellers that treated edgy ideas, like women's independence, in an interesting way, although the style was conventional, or, as Virginia Woolf put it, "dull". Unfortunately for the realist school, then as now, it is style that saves a

book long after any topical relevance is exhausted. Galsworthy, Walpole, Bennett, Sackville-West, Radclyffe Hall were topical; Woolf had style. If we do not read Radclyffe Hall's other books now, it is because their contemporary interest has passed, not because, as Sally Cline argues, Hall was a major writer whose body of work has been overshadowed by sexual politics.

Every biographer has an agenda. Biography is not truth telling: it is a version of the information available. If Sally Cline's has a little too much of the sacred shrine about it, it is ironic that she disapproves of the loyal Una for massaging the myth for a lifetime and beyond, it is difficult to get past Una and towards John, for

Una burnt and edited letters, journals and documents as she saw fit, and recorded daily her version of their life together and John's public persona. Sally Cline thinks Una may even have forced John to change her will, seven days before she died of cancer in 1943, aged 62.

The earlier will had made equal provision for Una, her partner of 28 years, and Eugenia Soulard, a Russian nurse with whom she had fought out a wild passion since the mid Thirties. Soulard was Six. Una was Home. It was a triangle that caused immense misery but neither John nor Una would accept any degree of change. It was Soulard who finally escaped their oppressive geometry only to find her allowance cut off. What John could do in life she could surely arrange at death. Sally Cline is probably right to defend Soulard against the gold-digger image too often attached to her, but wrong to lay so much of the blame in the impossible menage on Una. As usual in such situations, the loved ones bear the tension while the lover masquerades as torn hero.

Torn hero suited Radclyffe Hall. For most of her life the contradictions dynamised her and sent seismic shocks through the world she lived in. She was a Catholic and a lesbian. She dressed like a man from the waist



Hall as a young woman: she was prepared to risk her literary reputation for what she believed in.

down. She voted Tory, was conventional in many of her opinions, yet took on the Establishment and refused to accept its verdict. She wanted her literary reputation, yet she was prepared to risk it for what she believed in. Risk it and pay for it to cover the costs of the *Well*'s trials she

had to sell her London house. The Labour Party, who had supported her vociferously whilst in opposition, ignored her when they came to power. Her letters to the Home Secretary asking him to lift the ban on the book remained unanswered. Raffish and outspoken, her

brio, her restlessness and above all, her courage made Radclyffe Hall a figurehead and an icon in her own time, and she has remained so in ours. Seventy years after publication, the last line of the infamous book, "Give us also the right to our existence", is still a matter for debate.

An unkindly uncle



Geli with Hitler: she confided to friends that he insisted on "horrible things"

M. R. D. Foot

HITLER AND GELI
By Ronald Hayman
Bloomsbury, £16.99
ISBN 0 7475 2727

"horrible things" when they were alone together.

She was found shot, in a room locked from inside, with one of Hitler's pistols — which she certainly knew how to use — beside her. The precise circumstances have never been cleared up, and Hayman (while protesting that there ought to have been an inquest) does not establish whether it was suicide, accident, or murder. He does establish that Hitler, who used to play air from Wagner and Verdi to her, never sat at a piano again; and reckons that he then picked up Eva Braun as a poor substitute for Geli on whom his heart remained set. (The two girls had met once: Geli despised Eva.)

He indicates, without proving, that the harshnesses of the Waldviertel had their part to play in the sadistic horrors that accompanied Nazi power in Germany. He makes no attempt to hide or to condone the regime's bestialities. In a concluding passage (not enhanced by a reference to "the Roman Emperor Sulla") he describes Geli as Hitler's "only friend", writing off the rest from Hess to Axmann, as mere sycophants.

This is a book of nasty stories, neatly told, about an evil but captivating man. A modern Dante would need to build an extra pit at the bottom of Hell to hold Hitler and Stalin; yet books about Hitler continue to appear. This one has many details about his parentage and private life before he became dictator; details that still have a certain macabre fascination. Chapters on them alternate with chapters on German politics. The story runs on to 1931, when his niece Geli Gaubau, who shared a flat with him, was found dead in it.

Hayman establishes what a primitive lot the peasants of the Waldviertel, the corner of Austria from which Hitler came, were: how brutal his childhood was (like Eisenhower, he was repeatedly thrashed by his father); and how uncertain he was about his own ancestry — he was never sure whether his father's father had been Aryan or Jew. (Later research seems to have cleared this up in favour of Aryan.) Those categories came to mean everything to him, so obsessed was he by concepts of racial purity.

What lies beneath the surface

Elaine Feinstein

SKIN
By Tobias Hill
Faber, £12.99
ISBN 0 571 17956 2

TEN WOMEN WHO SHOCK THE WORLD
By Sylvia Brownrigg
Collins, £12.99
ISBN 0 575 06490 0

she shreds it with scissors. There is a press of detailed knowledge here altogether remarkable in so precocious a talent. Already an award-winning poet, Skin establishes Tobias Hill as an important writer.

Sylvia Brownrigg's title has a misleadingly feisty buzz; she is a gentle writer, and a true original; the women at the

centre of her stories amaze less by shaking the world than by taking common female solutions to surreal extremes. The lady who chooses a stretch of a desert for her starvation diet begins by hoping to impress her work-mates with an immaculate shape; soon she is conversing dangerously with a lost lover in anorexic delirium and dwindling to the point of no return. A woman trains birds to perform Shakespeare; her revolutionary performances are praised, but "the charge of exploitation does for her." In *She Who Caught Buses*, Brownrigg enters the mind of a woman tormented at bus-stops and library check-outs by a tribe of Chunks in the guise of human beings.

BROWNRIGG'S voices are trustworthy, or at least seductive, even when they begin somewhere we fail to recognise; the isolated childhood which underlies the paranoid vision of Chunks also holds a family of owls and a persimmon tree as the most magical of friends. Perhaps it is only in the story where two women engage in building the seven wonders of the world in record time that she goes too close to the line between irony and whimsy for comfort.

Elaine Feinstein's latest poetry collection, Daylight, is published by Carcanet, priced £6.95.

THERE are several themes in contemporary women's fiction which are starting to get a bit overcooked: sexual abuse, food fetishism and self-mutilation, to name the most obvious. However, I would not criticise anybody for writing about these things, because for many women they are realities. All the same, I read the title of this book and the blurb — "a love based on pure appetite" — that comes to an "ecstatic and terrible conclusion" — and thought, "Put another record on, please."

The Taste of a Man is Croatian writer Slavenka Drakulic's third novel and sixth book. Tereza is a young Polish writer who comes to New York to study. When she meets Jose, a Brazilian aca-



Tania Glyde

THE TASTE OF A MAN
By Slavenka Drakulic
Abacus, £9.99
ISBN 0 349 10932 X

has a wife and baby back in Brazil. And when the wife comes to America to try to get him home again, Tereza realises there is only one possible conclusion to their relationship. The book's ending is no surprise — the story is told as Tereza cleans the bloodstained flat and prepares to return to Warsaw.

What grabbed me about this book were the subtexts in it, rather than the relationship

The exiles from history

Roy Foster on how Ireland takes the modern out of postmodern

Opposite, the pun in the title of Fintan O'Toole's dazzling new collection of essays comes from Ambrose Bierce's *Devil's Dictionary*. O'Toole has a demon eye for the tender conscience and the Achilles heel, allied to a Mephistophelian subtlety in argument. There are certain of his targets who, after reading this book, would probably like to see him retired to infernal regions. But in what matters, he is firmly on the side of the angels, and he certainly writes like one.

This has long been evident to entranced followers of his newspaper column in *The Irish Times*, infinitely the most serious as well as laceratingly funny commentary on modern Ireland: he has also delighted a large Irish readership with *Meanwhile, Back at the Ranch*, his thoughtful analysis of the Goodman beef scandal, which anatomised "cattle culture" in newly rich rural Ireland. Reading his last collection of essays, *Black Hole Green Card*, it struck me that he was describing a country which has moved from archaism to postmodernism without becoming modern: his new collection develops the insight, interpreting what emigration and "globalism" have done to Irish culture — and, less unexpectedly, how symbiotic the process has been.

Hence his vivid, if horror-struck, interest in the Michael Flatley enterprises of *Riverdance* and *Lord of the Dance*, which combine traditional Irish rhythms, chorus-line eroticism and fascist kitsch. Hence his fascination with the generation of Irish memory by received ideas of American culture ("35 years of being an offshore economic dependency of the United States have left us with a society that is seen by an increasing number of its young people as a pale imitation of the Real Thing across the Atlantic").

But he also explores the Irish resonances of the Jesse James legend, and the reason why *Cleary Sitting Bull* died with an Irishman's papal medal round his neck. O'Toole has an eye for the way traditional culture tried to shore itself up against offshore invasions; he introduces us to T. H. Nally's attempt, in 1917, to replace Santa Claus with an authenticated Gaelic alternative ("Finn Varra Maia") and a 1945 Gaelic pantomime whose "highest point of distinction was the excellent translation of the popular hit *I Got a Gal in Kalamazoo*."

The theme of *Black Hole Green Card* was the death of an Ireland aggressively imagined by the creators of modern Irish nationalism. But what interests him now is its replacement: the confidence which accompanies Ireland's postmodern embrace of the ersatz. Trust him to find a cowboy ranch in Co Leitrim which invites clients to "Live the Legend of the Old West ... right here in Ireland."

Thus, his long analysis of Tony O'Reilly, the "global Irishman", self-made international millionaire, media magnate, "folk hero of capitalism's



Irish culture: locked into a rigid public morality

BOOKS 41

THE EX-ISLE OF ERIN
Images of a Global Ireland
By Fintan O'Toole
New Island Books, £7.99
ISBN 1 85459 749 9

unheroic age," blends censure with appreciation — and a perceptive sympathy for the insecurities in his background which drive the phenomenon on. At the same time he shows how O'Reilly began his meteoric rise by "branding Ireland" through marketing Kerrygold butter — and ends the essay with O'Reilly's discovery that he could make "Waterford" crystal cheaply in Czechoslovakia, since the American market no longer associated "Waterford" with "Ireland". A part of the country has become, finally, no more than a brand, a name without a face, a placeless image, freed at last from history."

On one level at least we are, may be being freed from the forces which made us what we are. But the climax of the book is a long meditation on the terrible background of child abuse behind a succession of scandals in religious teaching orders (one of which indirectly brought down Albert Reynolds' government), the bitter revelation that Father Michael Cleary, shrillest of newspaper pulpiteers on behalf of "traditional morality", died leaving two children by his "housekeeper" and the continuing tragedy of abandoned newborn babies in rural Ireland. How do Irish people, not so postmodern after all, react? "One of the strange things about Ireland is that, perhaps uniquely among societies, we have insisted on proclaiming a public morality that is in many ways worse than our private values. Our peculiar form of hypocrisy has been not so whitened as a blackened sepulchre, proclaiming to the world a rigid, intolerant, heartless face that belies the actual decency and humanity of the way ordinary Irish people tend to look upon people in trouble." The point, O'Toole tells us, is to construct laws that reflect our better selves.

Thus, though his mordant sense of a trend in the making recalls Tom Wolfe, O'Toole is the worthy inheritor to an Irish tradition of humane moralists who include Sean O'Faolain, "AE", and Hubert Butler. This book — profound, witty, and when necessary exhorting — demands quotation. Even more, it demands reading, and not just for Irish people bewildered at where their country is going. O'Toole provides the most illuminating and cautionary modern commentary on that strange process whereby we base our expectations on ill-founded assumptions about history: until (as Lewis Namier put it) by a double process of repetition we imagine the past and remember the future. And no country, whether ex-isle or ex-empire, is immune to that.

DEIRDRE DONALD

NEW AUTHORS

PUBLISH YOUR WORK

ALL SUBJECTS CONSIDERED

Fiction, Non-Fiction, Biography,

Religious, Poetry, Children's

AUTHORS WORLDWIDE INVITED

WRITE OR SEND YOUR MANUSCRIPT TO

MINERVA PRESS

2 OLD MORTON ROAD, LONDON NW7 3QD

Bargains of the week: cycling trips to Bath; painting holidays in France; student ferry fares to Germany

HOLIDAYS

TENERIFE for £179 a person for a week's self-catering holiday with a flight from Gatwick next Tuesday is on offer from Cussons. Details: 0161-480 5799.

■ COTSWOLD walking tours and Cheltenham to Bath cycling trips are available this month at the discounted price of £249 a person a week from Compass Holidays and include B&B in small hotels and inns. Details: 01242 250642.

■ GAMBIA for £179 a person for a week from July 3 to a hotel with breakfast is on offer from Going Places. Return flight from Manchester. Details: 0541 555334.

■ A PAINTING holiday in the Charente region of France is available from July 7 for a week from £300 a person, including all-day tuition in drawing, watercolour and acrylics and full board in a converted barn with pool. Travel is extra. Details: 0171-226 5370.

■ MIDWEEK breaks in Disneyland Paris are available from £221 an adult. a £35

saving, until July 13 from Paris Travel Service. Price includes Eurostar travel, park entrance fees and two nights' accommodation at a Disney hotel on site. Details: 01992 456100.

■ COZO holidays from Belvoir start at £312 a person in apartments for a week to £651 in a five-star hotel in August. Gatwick-Malta flights and helicopter transfer to Gozo included. Details: 0171-753 3266.

■ SEAFARER CRUISES has waived single occupancy supplements on week-long trips around Turkey's Turquoise coast, saving solo travellers up to £750. The price of £899 a person includes return flights from UK and full board. Details: 0171-234 0500.

■ AIR INDIA flights from Heathrow to Chicago or Toronto cost £249 return during June. Details from Trailfinders: 0171-937 5400.

■ FLIGHTS to Beijing or Bangkok cost from £420 through Flightbookers. Departures can be made from London, Manchester, Edinburgh or Birmingham. Details: 0171-757 2444.

■ BRITISH AIRWAYS has introduced an £89 excursion between Birmingham and Amsterdam. Book 14 days ahead. Details: 0345 222 0088.

FLIGHTS

MAJOR TRAVEL will provide a free return ticket to Paris for every passenger booking a British Airways transatlantic flight by June 30 for travel by July 21. Details: 0171-485 7017.



FIVE NIGHTS in Beijing from £459 a person, including flights — a £238 saving — is among offers in the Summer Specials brochure from Hayes & Jarvis available until the end of September. Other offers include Hurghada, Egypt, from £269, and Mombasa from £439 a week with half board. Details: 0181-748 0088.

FERRIES

STUDENT FARES to Denmark, Germany, Sweden or Holland start at £29.25 single with Scandinavian Seaways. Details: 0990 333000.

■ STENA LINE has extended its duty-free sale until June 30. Day trips to Calais and Dieppe cost £15 a car and £1 a passenger, or £1 for foot passengers. Details: 0990 167676.

■ IRISH FERRIES has weekly, west coast holidays from £121 an adult, based on four travelling, to include return ferry and self-catering accommodation. Children under 16 travel free. Details: 0990 739955.

■ P&O FERRIES is promoting European short breaks from £81 a person, based on two travelling and including ferry and two nights B&B. Details: 01992 456045.

■ SALLY FERRIES has introduced new Euro economy fares with savings of up to £19 for a car and five people to Ostend and Dunkirk. Bookings must be made 30 days in advance. Details: 0345 160000.

HOTELS

Leonards in the Cotswolds is offering a two-night, half-board break from £130 a person through Crystal Britain. Details: 081-390 8533.

■ ONE of the best views across London can be had from the rooftop bar and restaurant at the Royal Garden Hotel in Kensington. Weekend rates between July 1 and September start at £150 a room a night, including English breakfast. Details: 0171-937 8000.

■ THE special summer rate at the Royal Crescent Hotel, Bath, until the end of August is £227 a night for two people and including dinner and breakfast. Details: 01225 739955.

■ THREE-NIGHT bargain breaks — brunch and dinner at a cost of £119 a person — are available at the Warner Bembridge Coast Hotel on the Isle of Wight from July 11. Details: 01705 492121.

■ THE new Hotel Negara in Singapore has a special discount of 50 per cent off normal rates for rooms and suites until September 15. Details: 0171-583 5212.

■ THE four-star Hatton Court Hotel in Upton St

TO ADVERTISE CALL
0171 481 1989

CHECK-IN

FAX:
0171 782 7824

STA TRAVEL
WORLD LEADERS IN YOUNG INDEPENDENT TRAVEL

From	To	Conditions vary on these student and non-student, quality airline, scheduled flights to and from
Paris/Geneva	£59	Athens £126
Amsterdam	£65	New York £168
Dublin	£56	Washington £168
Madrid	£59	Helsinki £113
Lisbon	£66	Johnnesburg £362
London	£223	Sydney £595

120 ROUND THE WORLD TICKETS TO BE WON
FOR MORE DETAILS SEE PRESS, BUSINESS FAIRS OR CALL INTO ANY BRANCH OF STA TRAVEL

EUROPE: 0171 361 6161, WORLDWIDE: 0171 361 6262, EUROSTAR: 0171 361 6143
ACCOMMODATION • CAR HIRE • INSURANCE AND OVERLAND TOURS: 0171 361 6160
117 Euston Road NW1, 6 Old Brompton Rd SW7, 11 Conduit St W1, London
STA TRAVEL INFORMATION REQUEST LINE: 0171 361 6160

STA TRAVEL LONDON MANCHESTER GLASGOW LEEDS NEWCASTLE OXFORD CAMBRIDGE BRISTOL BRIGHTON - STA TRAVEL

Budget
LEISURE CARS

Worldwide Car Rental
within your Budget!

USA	£79
SPAIN	£94
CANADA	£147
PORTUGAL	£109
FRANCE	£179
ITALY	£209

Call us now we are
Open 7 days a week
01923 850085

Daily scheduled flights from
£39
for low fares to Europe, book Debonair

Book
Now!

and catch our
pre-summer
fares



Call 0541 500 300

Fares shown are one way, exclusive of tax, from London Luton. Subject to availability. But hurry. There are limited seats.

Call us now or contact your travel agent.

debonair

Debonair European Vacations brochure now available. 01295 886600 ATOL 4184

DEBONAIR TRAVEL LTD

WE SPECIALISE IN LOW COST TRAVEL FOR STUDENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE PROVIDING SUPPORT IN OVER 150 OFFICES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

TELEPHONE BOOKINGS LONDON - OPEN 7 DAYS

0171 730 8111

EUROPE 0171 730 3402

NORTH AMERICA 0171 730 2101

BRISTOL 0117 925 2494

EDINBURGH 0131 563 3202

MANCHESTER 0161 273 1721

LIVERPOOL 0151 708 0721

AMSTERDAM 010 527 39

ATHENS 76 132

AUSTRALIA 347 500

BELGIUM 177 340

BRAZIL 196 355

BOMBAY/DENVER 198 339

CANADA 221 222

CARIBBEAN 222 222

CHESTERFIELD 222 222

CHICAGO 222 222

CINNABAR 222 222

CLOUDS 222 222

COLUMBUS 222 222

COPENHAGEN 222 222

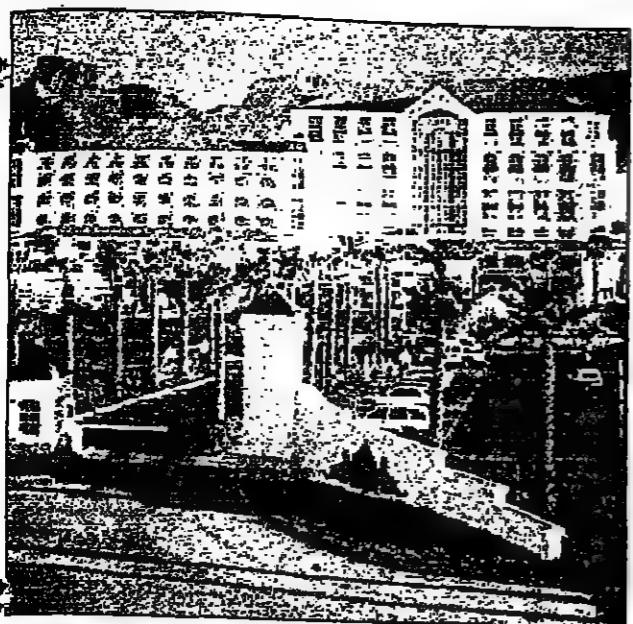
CORK 222 222

CORINTH 222 222

CRAVEN 222 222

</div

THE TIMES THURSDAY JUNE 12 1997



The Table Bay Hotel: black investors own 51 per cent of it

Beijing promises to raise tourism standard

By ROBIN YOUNG

MORE THAN 140 Beijing hotels have signed a joint pledge to improve their management, staff training and marketing methods. The city authorities say that the move will "help to defend the honour of Beijing's tourism industry and improve its quality of service".

Since 1979, when China opened up to international visitors, hotels have become big business in the Chinese capital. Beijing now has 210 hotels qualifying for ratings stars, including 10 with internationally recognised five-star awards. The city's income from overseas tourism totalled £1.37 billion in 1996, almost a quarter of all China's receipts from that source.

Beijing's total revenue from tourism last year accounted for a third of the city's gross domestic product.

At the top, Beijing's hotel standards are good indeed, as shown by the preference of Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, for the Shanghai-La Group's China World Hotel rather than her country's embassy. Chancellor Kohl and President Chirac have also stayed at the China World.

Xin Tao, vice-manager of the China World and vice-chairman of the Beijing Tourism Industry Association's hotel branch that organised and negotiated the ten-point pledge, says: "The promises the hotels in the capital city have made show their determination to maintain the image of their industry through exchange of information and close co-operation."

The hotels promise exchange of information about room rates and occupancy, a ban on "unethical competition" and an end to all business that infringes "social and commercial ethics".

Though more than 60 star-rated hotels, mostly among the three-star category or lower, have yet to subscribe to the pledges, Lu Yuchang, the vice-mayor of Beijing, is confident the days of hotels being associated with corruption and prostitution are numbered.

He says: "Tourism has become a driving force promoting local economic development. Our city hotels paid 1.48 billion yuan [more than £100 million] in taxes last year. We cannot afford to let bad management or practices put that at risk."

Calais revamp brings chaos

By ALAN STEVEN

DRIVERS disembarking from boats at Calais in the next few months had better prepare for savage delays. With a remarkable sense of timing, the Calais Port authority has decided to refurbish the terminal area totally — at the height of the tourist season.

"It's bureaucracy gone mad," claims Geoff Treble, of the Calais Chamber of Commerce. They have complained to the immigration authorities, who simply file their complaints in the pending file. The consequence of that bureaucracy willadden many British tourists this summer.

Cranes dominate the skyline, bulldozers are everywhere and tip-up trucks trundle around the concourse. The loading area and the lanes directing cars through passport control weave a merry route landing up on a slight incline with buses and cars revving as they chug through at less than walking pace.

It's not a happy sight and frustration was showing on the faces in the car alongside me as we waited on a recent Bank Holiday weekend. Two boats had just come in and the queues stretched for almost a mile. "It's so irritating," the driver moaned. "I have a house in the north and come through Calais often. Once I am off the boat, I want to get on with the journey."

There are delays on the concourse as cars are directed hither and thither. Lorries and buses cross the paths of unloading/trading vehicles and, inevitably, delays ensue.

But nothing to compare with the delay at Passport Control. P&O — the largest ferry operator on the Channel route — has made representations to the Calais Port Authority without success. "We have pressed again and again, and got nowhere," says Nick Stevens of P&O. "We are acutely aware of the situation. At the end of the day, the master is in the hands of the immigration authorities."

Calais Port is administered by the Calais Chamber of Commerce for the French government. To their credit, they are spending huge sums on the modernisation of the port hence the work currently being undertaken. But they don't have any say about how many officers man the passport control. "It's out of our hands," Treble sighs. "We have recently built, at a cost of £23 million, new booths and passport control cabins. All we can do is provide the facilities. If they don't man them there's nothing we can do. All we can get in reply is that there have been cutbacks in staff. They

SOUTH AFRICA'S President, Nelson Mandela, has hailed Cape Town's newest hotel as a testimony to the end of the apartheid regime. The Table Bay, built on the Victoria and Alfred waterfront in the lee of Table Mountain, is 51 per cent owned by 20,000 black investors.

The President, who officially opened the £32 million hotel for Sun International, described it as a "milestone in the integration of two societies", and said: "Until now, these people have never been able to stake a claim in the economy of their birth."

The 329-room Table Bay is Sun International's first city hotel and its first South African hotel outside the former South African homelands.

Its vast glass atrium and restaurant overlook the mountain and bustling converted dock area of shops and bars. It

has a health spa, a gymnasium with personal trainers and a rooftop swimming pool. Sun International won the contract for the site against competition from Hyatt, Ritz Carlton and InterContinental.

Among the guests at the launch party were Sol Kerzner, of the South African millionaire and chairman of Sun International. His empire includes 34 hotels worldwide (21 with casinos) including several in Mauritius, the Bahamas, the Comoros and former homelands. His hotel in Sun City is the largest, attracting two million visitors a year.

Mark Thatcher made a rare public appearance at the launch party with his wife Diane as did Dr Christian Barnard, 74, the celebrated heart surgeon and his

wife, Karin, 33, a former Miss South Africa.

A weak rand increased international tourism to South Africa by 15 per cent in the first six months of this year with British visitors topping the league. A total of 228,000 tourists in 1996 were from the UK. Most visitors to southern Africa stay at the four major attractions — Victoria Falls, the game parks, the Sun City gambling resort and Cape Town.

Cape Town is an ideal base for exploring the winelands, the Cape Dutch homesteads and visiting the Jackass penguin colony at Boulders Bay. Half an hour by boat from the harbour is Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela spent 24 years in prison. His cell is now open to the public.

• Rooms at the Table Bay cost from £160 for a single to £1,250 for an executive suite.



Heavy building equipment may delay motorists passing through Calais this summer as the terminal area is refurbished

Among our tacky souvenirs

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

DRINKS cabinets throughout Britain are bulging with strange-shaped bottles of foreign liqueurs that tasted good on holiday but will never be touched back home.

Two out of three holiday-makers, a new NOP survey finds, bring back bottles of drink that then gather dust, and sticky necks, in the back of the cupboard. And nine out of ten British tourists collect all manner of tacky souvenirs from ashtrays to dolls.

The survey of 1,000 people, for *Bella* magazine, revealed that no fewer than 93 per cent admitted to buying "trifles" souvenirs abroad. Two out of three buy drinks, but almost as many go for "tacky ceramics" which are seeming-

ly made by talented "local craftsmen", says the survey.

Women went for ceramics, leather goods, cuddly toys and jewellery; men bought rough wine, silly hats, sunglasses and cigarettes. Still amazingly popular are a pair of castanets, an Eiffel Tower paperweight and a joke bottle of "holy oil" from shops in Rome to Jerusalem.

The young go for local foods and inflatable animals because they are seen more as a fun item to remind them of their holiday. Middle-aged holidaymakers prefer local alcohol, leather purses and the kind of loud T-shirts they can get away with on the beach but not in the pub back home. The older, mature trav-

eller likes to hunt down ponchos, saris, wood carvings and dolls in national dress.

Regional tastes also vary; people from the West Country are the most likely to bring back tacky souvenirs and East Anglians the least likely. Tourists from the North West were most likely to come back bearing gifts to do with smoking or drinking.

Jackie Higgin, *Bella's* editor-in-chief, says the survey shows why so many foreign shopkeepers always seem so pleased to see the British.

They will be rubbing their hands in glee at the findings of this poll. It seems we love souvenirs, but will never learn that they look better in their native surroundings.



Prague heads short-stay table

By TONY DAWE

PRAGUE has become the most popular European city for a short break holiday, according to one of the leading British tour companies.

The beautiful Czech city with its mixture of European cultures has overtaken Paris to claim the number one slot in the list of top-selling destinations for Eurobreak, part of the Inghams group.

Rival short break operators, Cresta Holidays and Crystal Cities, report that Paris still heads their lists with Dublin becoming an increasingly trendy destination. All the companies claim a substantial rise in summer bookings.

People booking last minute breaks are trading up, choosing first class travel, luxury hotels and destinations further afield, all of which cost

more than their usual short breaks," David Deane, who runs Eurobreak, says. "The trend indicates that building society windfalls are being used partly to fund the icing on the cake of a short break."

Eurobreak offers a wide choice of hotels in Prague with scheduled flights from Heathrow, Stansted and Manchester and prices ranging from £267 for two nights in a three-star hotel to £546 for two

nights at the five-star Palace Hotel.

Jane Williams, Cresta's marketing manager, says that Paris maintains its top spot with the company because of the excellent hotel deals available in July and August when Parisians desert the city for their own holidays.

"Virtually all the hotels offer one night free so that three nights are available for the price of two," she says. The

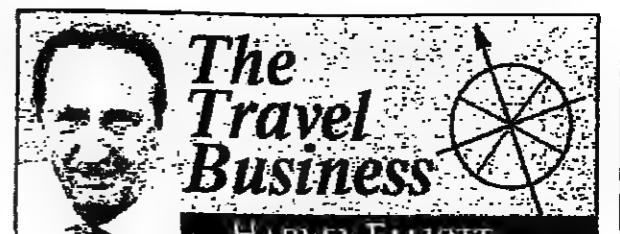
lead-in price for a three-night break is £134 with a choice of flights from six English airports.

Cresta also reports that Dublin is threatening to overtake Rome to claim third place in its top ten cities, after Paris and Amsterdam, and that Tallinn, the Estonian capital, is one of its surprise successes.

"Clients who are seasoned travellers are always looking to explore a different culture and history and Tallinn is like a miniature version of Prague but completely untouched," Miss Williams adds. "As for Dublin, it is really buzzing and has become the trendy place to spend a weekend."

• The Eurobreak top-selling destinations are 1. Prague; 2. Paris; 3. Barcelona; 4. Vienna; 5. Rome; 6. Amsterdam; 7. Bruges; 8. Venice; 9. Istanbul; 10. Budapest.

TRAVEL NEWS 43



HARVEY ELLIOTT

BA becomes worldly wise

It is quite extraordinary how airlines generate such intense feelings of national pride and even chauvinism.

From the earliest days of commercial aviation, when flying boats and converted bombers lumbered around the world, they were seen as a means of extending influence and power.

Every country, whether an African dictatorship or a Western democracy, wanted a "national airline" to carry its flag, to shout its name in foreign parts and to reflect its national pride.

Little more than a decade ago almost all the big international airlines were state-owned and were considered to be playing a vital part in foreign policy. The Russian airline Aeroflot was no more than a military machine that just happened to carry passengers.

In the UK the newly privatised British Airways was beginning to flex its commercial muscles.

Senior officials at BA suddenly realised that the world had changed. Shareholders came from all over the world, at one stage owning as much as 40 per cent of the company. The percentage of British passengers was shrinking. Countries to which Britain meant little but good service and good value now provide more than 65 per cent of an average plane load.

Other airlines were taking advantage of the crumbling barriers to international travel. Cabin staff spoke several languages. Fuel and food came from around the world. Crews and sales teams were based in foreign countries, wooing locals rather than returning nationals.

Yet a BA television commercial still showed the relief, the feeling of "homecoming" that a British traveller could expect on board British Airways. But what did the exhortation to "fly the flag" matter to an Indian

Ferries drop fares for naturist boom

BY STEVE KEENAN

NUDISTs are being offered discounts by a cross-Channel ferry firm wanting to cash in on a boom in holidays offering naked vacation.

Sea France is knocking 20 per cent off its published fares for the 20,000 members of the British Naturism Society. And operators to France are reporting heavy demand for nudist holidays, in line with a general upswing in cross-Channel travel this year.

Peng Travel, which specialises in nudist holidays, says that the most famous nudist resort, Cap d'Agde on the Riviera, is selling well, along with resorts in Languedoc-Roussillon and Aquitaine.

Heidi Englert, Peng's operations manager, says: "We are very pleased with our bookings. They are certainly up on previous years."

Tracey Major, general secretary of the Naturist Society

— which has also negotiated discount rates with the breakdown service Green Flag and Gold Cover Insurance — says: "France has always been popular with our members. There are a lot of big resorts, and it is second only to Britain for naturist holidays."

The French are more receptive to naturists than this country. We are a bit more puritanical."

The first-time Sea France offer is made in the summer edition of the society's quarterly magazine.

Michelle Andjel, a spokeswoman for the ferry company, says: "The discounts are valid until the end of the year. This is one of a number of promotions we have running."

"Nudists are as entitled as anybody else to go on holiday and we are delighted to have them on board — so long as they keep their clothes on."

THE AUSTRALIA TIMES



On June 19th *The Times* will publish a Special Focus examining the evolving relationship between Britain and Australia, and the business opportunities this presents.

By taking advantage of this advertising opportunity to promote your products and services you will reach over 1,901,000 potential readers. (Source: NRS Oct-Mar '97)

• *The Times* reaches more high profile businessmen than any other quality daily newspaper including the Financial Times. (Source: BBS 1995)

For further information contact Louisa Jones International Business Development Tel: 0171 782 7705 Fax: 0171 782 7103 e-mail: louisa.jones@newsinc.co.uk

Cycling, watersports, angling & beaches?

THE ANSWER

Holland.

TRAVEL ON SATURDAY

*Sara Wheeler in Bangladesh
A weekend break in Brussels
Susan McDonald on the port trail
Flying a Tiger Moth and airshows
Travel Tips with Jill Crawshaw*

JUNE 12 1997

THE TIMES THURSDAY JUNE 12 1997

45

se

Join the Company Golf Day Challenge



In nearly Companies entered the



Make sure your

enters in '97

ge order



Above: 1996 Entries

TITLE SPONSORS

Mees Pierson

ASSOCIATE SPONSORS



CITROËN

WILKINSON CRYSTAL



GOLF WORLD

Marriott

OFFICIAL SUPPLIERS

Titleist

Baileys

FREEBNET

Register

- 1 Internet Site - <http://www.golftoday.co.uk/timescorpgolf/>

- 2 Faxback on 0660 600567
- Calls cost 49p per min at all times.

For any other enquiries contact the Challenge office on

403 7273

Mahdi adds spice to Newmarket's cosmopolitan flavour

Chris McGrath meets a Kuwaiti trainer blending into his new headquarters

Racing in Britain is often dismissed as hide-bound, introverted and suspicious. At Royal Ascot next week, for instance, we will turn out — pink-faced and perspiring — in top hat and tails, a legitimating badge pinned to our lapels.

But the caricature is not entirely fair. At worst, racing in this country assimilates the outsider, sooner than actually embracing him. Should the Maktoum brothers greet an Ascot winner, we can only look forward to the spectacle of the Arab entourage, sombre and gravel-toned, crowding into the winner's enclosure in their morning suits.

In truth, it is a sport of vigorously cosmopolitan flavour — and fresh variegation arrives in the person of Kamil Mahdi, former champion trainer of Kuwait, who runs Almushatirak in the Cork and Orrery Stakes next Thursday. Mahdi, 48, saddled over 400 winners on sand in his homeland, but has succumbed to the allure of the sport in a rather more green and pleasant guise.

His admiration for British racing, indeed, appears to be matched only by that he appears to feel for his own prospects in it. But then it is difficult to argue otherwise, on the limited evidence available.

Last Thursday, on the eve of

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: The Faraway Tree
(3.30 Newbury)
Next best: Geimhruiul
(4.10 Goodwood)

On Saturday, Mahdi was off to Epsom himself. Almushatirak, fourth in the Jersey Stakes at last year's royal meeting for Gay Kelleway, was his second runner, in the Diomed Stakes. After rotten luck in running, the 33-1 shot was beaten less than four lengths into fifth.

He nearly fell at Tattenham Corner and was struck down by "Faithful Son," Mahdi said. "He returned

the Oaks at Epsom, the planting of a little acorn at Yarmouth was understandably neglected. Neglected, one might add, to the tune of 20-1. That was the starting price from his new base, the 40-box Green Ridge Stables in Newmarket. Gleaming for his first outing in eight months, the colt won a handicap by three-quarters of a length.

With the caricature is not entirely fair. At worst, racing in this country assimilates the outsider, sooner than actually embracing him. Should the Maktoum brothers greet an Ascot winner, we can only look forward to the spectacle of the Arab entourage, sombre and gravel-toned, crowding into the winner's enclosure in their morning suits.

In truth, it is a sport of vigorously cosmopolitan flavour — and fresh variegation arrives in the person of Kamil Mahdi, former champion trainer of Kuwait, who runs Almushatirak in the Cork and Orrery Stakes next Thursday. Mahdi, 48, saddled over 400 winners on sand in his homeland, but has succumbed to the allure of the sport in a rather more green and pleasant guise.

His admiration for British racing, indeed, appears to be matched only by that he appears to feel for his own prospects in it. But then it is difficult to argue otherwise, on the limited evidence available.

Last Thursday, on the eve of

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Salisbury

Going: good firm. 1. DESERT LADY (T Sprake, 2-1 fav) 2. Universal Lady (J Doye, 10-1). 3. Midwinter (Neville) 4-1. 4. NICE (P. A. Hall, 20-1). 5. RUMBLE (D. C. Keen, 40-1). 6. Lane (B. H. 33-1). 7. Sable (J. Jonathan's) 8. Run For Joy (4-1). 9. 11-1. 10. R. Charlton (A. Beckingham, 10-1). 11. 10-1. 12. G. Parker (A. Waddington, 10-1). 13. 25-1. 14. 25-1. 15. 17-1. 16. 25-1. 17. 25-1. 18. 25-1. 19. 25-1. 20. 25-1. 21. 25-1. 22. 25-1. 23. 25-1. 24. 25-1. 25. 25-1. 26. 25-1. 27. 25-1. 28. 25-1. 29. 25-1. 30. 25-1. 31. 25-1. 32. 25-1. 33. 25-1. 34. 25-1. 35. 25-1. 36. 25-1. 37. 25-1. 38. 25-1. 39. 25-1. 40. 25-1. 41. 25-1. 42. 25-1. 43. 25-1. 44. 25-1. 45. 25-1. 46. 25-1. 47. 25-1. 48. 25-1. 49. 25-1. 50. 25-1. 51. 25-1. 52. 25-1. 53. 25-1. 54. 25-1. 55. 25-1. 56. 25-1. 57. 25-1. 58. 25-1. 59. 25-1. 60. 25-1. 61. 25-1. 62. 25-1. 63. 25-1. 64. 25-1. 65. 25-1. 66. 25-1. 67. 25-1. 68. 25-1. 69. 25-1. 70. 25-1. 71. 25-1. 72. 25-1. 73. 25-1. 74. 25-1. 75. 25-1. 76. 25-1. 77. 25-1. 78. 25-1. 79. 25-1. 80. 25-1. 81. 25-1. 82. 25-1. 83. 25-1. 84. 25-1. 85. 25-1. 86. 25-1. 87. 25-1. 88. 25-1. 89. 25-1. 90. 25-1. 91. 25-1. 92. 25-1. 93. 25-1. 94. 25-1. 95. 25-1. 96. 25-1. 97. 25-1. 98. 25-1. 99. 25-1. 100. 25-1. 101. 25-1. 102. 25-1. 103. 25-1. 104. 25-1. 105. 25-1. 106. 25-1. 107. 25-1. 108. 25-1. 109. 25-1. 110. 25-1. 111. 25-1. 112. 25-1. 113. 25-1. 114. 25-1. 115. 25-1. 116. 25-1. 117. 25-1. 118. 25-1. 119. 25-1. 120. 25-1. 121. 25-1. 122. 25-1. 123. 25-1. 124. 25-1. 125. 25-1. 126. 25-1. 127. 25-1. 128. 25-1. 129. 25-1. 130. 25-1. 131. 25-1. 132. 25-1. 133. 25-1. 134. 25-1. 135. 25-1. 136. 25-1. 137. 25-1. 138. 25-1. 139. 25-1. 140. 25-1. 141. 25-1. 142. 25-1. 143. 25-1. 144. 25-1. 145. 25-1. 146. 25-1. 147. 25-1. 148. 25-1. 149. 25-1. 150. 25-1. 151. 25-1. 152. 25-1. 153. 25-1. 154. 25-1. 155. 25-1. 156. 25-1. 157. 25-1. 158. 25-1. 159. 25-1. 160. 25-1. 161. 25-1. 162. 25-1. 163. 25-1. 164. 25-1. 165. 25-1. 166. 25-1. 167. 25-1. 168. 25-1. 169. 25-1. 170. 25-1. 171. 25-1. 172. 25-1. 173. 25-1. 174. 25-1. 175. 25-1. 176. 25-1. 177. 25-1. 178. 25-1. 179. 25-1. 180. 25-1. 181. 25-1. 182. 25-1. 183. 25-1. 184. 25-1. 185. 25-1. 186. 25-1. 187. 25-1. 188. 25-1. 189. 25-1. 190. 25-1. 191. 25-1. 192. 25-1. 193. 25-1. 194. 25-1. 195. 25-1. 196. 25-1. 197. 25-1. 198. 25-1. 199. 25-1. 200. 25-1. 201. 25-1. 202. 25-1. 203. 25-1. 204. 25-1. 205. 25-1. 206. 25-1. 207. 25-1. 208. 25-1. 209. 25-1. 210. 25-1. 211. 25-1. 212. 25-1. 213. 25-1. 214. 25-1. 215. 25-1. 216. 25-1. 217. 25-1. 218. 25-1. 219. 25-1. 220. 25-1. 221. 25-1. 222. 25-1. 223. 25-1. 224. 25-1. 225. 25-1. 226. 25-1. 227. 25-1. 228. 25-1. 229. 25-1. 230. 25-1. 231. 25-1. 232. 25-1. 233. 25-1. 234. 25-1. 235. 25-1. 236. 25-1. 237. 25-1. 238. 25-1. 239. 25-1. 240. 25-1. 241. 25-1. 242. 25-1. 243. 25-1. 244. 25-1. 245. 25-1. 246. 25-1. 247. 25-1. 248. 25-1. 249. 25-1. 250. 25-1. 251. 25-1. 252. 25-1. 253. 25-1. 254. 25-1. 255. 25-1. 256. 25-1. 257. 25-1. 258. 25-1. 259. 25-1. 260. 25-1. 261. 25-1. 262. 25-1. 263. 25-1. 264. 25-1. 265. 25-1. 266. 25-1. 267. 25-1. 268. 25-1. 269. 25-1. 270. 25-1. 271. 25-1. 272. 25-1. 273. 25-1. 274. 25-1. 275. 25-1. 276. 25-1. 277. 25-1. 278. 25-1. 279. 25-1. 280. 25-1. 281. 25-1. 282. 25-1. 283. 25-1. 284. 25-1. 285. 25-1. 286. 25-1. 287. 25-1. 288. 25-1. 289. 25-1. 290. 25-1. 291. 25-1. 292. 25-1. 293. 25-1. 294. 25-1. 295. 25-1. 296. 25-1. 297. 25-1. 298. 25-1. 299. 25-1. 300. 25-1. 301. 25-1. 302. 25-1. 303. 25-1. 304. 25-1. 305. 25-1. 306. 25-1. 307. 25-1. 308. 25-1. 309. 25-1. 310. 25-1. 311. 25-1. 312. 25-1. 313. 25-1. 314. 25-1. 315. 25-1. 316. 25-1. 317. 25-1. 318. 25-1. 319. 25-1. 320. 25-1. 321. 25-1. 322. 25-1. 323. 25-1. 324. 25-1. 325. 25-1. 326. 25-1. 327. 25-1. 328. 25-1. 329. 25-1. 330. 25-1. 331. 25-1. 332. 25-1. 333. 25-1. 334. 25-1. 335. 25-1. 336. 25-1. 337. 25-1. 338. 25-1. 339. 25-1. 340. 25-1. 341. 25-1. 342. 25-1. 343. 25-1. 344. 25-1. 345. 25-1. 346. 25-1. 347. 25-1. 348. 25-1. 349. 25-1. 350. 25-1. 351. 25-1. 352. 25-1. 353. 25-1. 354. 25-1. 355. 25-1. 356. 25-1. 357. 25-1. 358. 25-1. 359. 25-1. 360. 25-1. 361. 25-1. 362. 25-1. 363. 25-1. 364. 25-1. 365. 25-1. 366. 25-1. 367. 25-1. 368. 25-1. 369. 25-1. 370. 25-1. 371. 25-1. 372. 25-1. 373. 25-1. 374. 25-1. 375. 25-1. 376. 25-1. 377. 25-1. 378. 25-1. 379. 25-1. 380. 25-1. 381. 25-1. 382. 25-1. 383. 25-1. 384. 25-1. 385. 25-1. 386. 25-1. 387. 25-1. 388. 25-1. 389. 25-1. 390. 25-1. 391. 25-1. 392. 25-1. 393. 25-1. 394. 25-1. 395. 25-1. 396. 25-1. 397. 25-1. 398. 25-1. 399. 25-1. 400. 25-1. 401. 25-1. 402. 25-1. 403. 25-1. 404. 25-1. 405. 25-1. 406. 25-1. 407. 25-1. 408. 25-1. 409. 25-1. 410. 25-1. 411. 25-1. 412. 25-1. 413. 25-1. 414. 25-1. 415. 25-1. 416. 25-1. 417. 25-1. 418. 25-1. 419. 25-1. 420. 25-1. 421. 25-1. 422. 25-1. 423. 25-1. 424. 25-1. 425. 25-1. 426. 25-1. 427. 25-1. 428. 25-1. 429. 25-1. 430. 25-1. 431. 25-1. 432. 25-1. 433. 25-1. 434. 25-1. 435. 25-1. 436. 25-1. 437. 25-1. 438. 25-1. 439. 25-1. 440. 25-1. 441. 25-1. 442. 25-1. 443. 25-1. 444. 25-1. 445. 25-1. 446. 25-1. 447. 25-1. 448. 25-1. 449. 25-1. 450. 25-1. 451. 25-1. 452. 25-1. 453. 25-1. 454. 25-1. 455. 25-1. 456. 25-1. 457. 25-1. 458. 25-1. 459. 25-1. 460. 25-1. 461. 25-1. 462. 25-1. 463. 25-1. 464. 25-1. 465. 25-1. 466. 25-1. 467. 25-1. 468. 25-1. 469. 25-1. 470. 25-1. 471. 25-1. 472. 25-1. 473. 25-1. 474. 25-1. 475. 25-1. 476. 25-1. 477. 25-1. 478. 25-1. 479. 25-1. 480. 25-1. 481. 25-1. 482. 25-1. 483. 25-1. 484. 25-1. 485. 25-1. 486. 25-1. 487. 25-1. 488. 25-1. 489. 25-1. 490. 25-1. 491. 25-1. 492. 25-1. 493. 25-1. 494. 25-1. 495. 25-1. 496. 25-1. 497. 25-1. 498. 25-1. 499. 25-1. 500. 25-1. 501. 25-1. 502. 25-1. 503. 25-1. 504. 25-1. 505. 25-1. 506. 25-1. 507. 25-1. 508. 25-1. 509. 25-1. 510. 25-1. 511. 25-1. 512. 25-1. 513. 25-1. 514. 25-1. 515. 25-1. 516. 25-1. 517. 25-1. 518. 25-1. 519. 25-1. 520. 25-1. 521. 25-1. 522. 25-1. 523. 25-1. 524. 25-1. 525. 25-1. 526. 25-1. 527. 25-1. 528. 25-1. 529. 25-1. 530. 25-1. 531. 25-1. 532. 25-1. 533. 25-1. 534. 25-1. 535. 25-1. 536. 25-1. 537. 25-1. 538. 25-1. 539. 25-1. 540. 25-1. 541. 25-1. 542. 25-1. 543. 25-1. 544. 25-1. 545. 25-1. 546. 25-1. 547. 25-1. 548. 25-1. 549. 25-1. 550. 25-1. 551. 25-1. 552. 25-1. 553. 25-1. 554. 25-1. 555. 25-1. 556. 25-1. 557. 25-1. 558. 25-1. 559. 25-1. 560. 25-1. 561. 25-1. 562. 25-1. 563. 25-1. 564. 25-1. 565. 25-1. 566. 25-1. 567. 25-1. 568. 25-1. 569. 25-1. 570. 25-1. 571. 25-1. 572. 25-1. 573. 25-1. 574. 25-1. 575. 25-1. 576. 25-1. 577. 25-1. 578.

ur
Weekend champion slayer

THE TIMES THURSDAY JUNE 12 1997

RK SPORT 47

David Hands meets the coach setting foot in a management snake pit

Springboks prepare for leap of faith

The first thing you notice about Carel du Plessis are the eyes. They have the intent stare of the visionary, which many in South Africa believe the latest Springboks coach to be. It is as though they are searching for a new world to conquer, a world; at present, occupied only by South Africa's invertebrate rivals, New Zealand.

Yet no one quite knows what to expect from Du Plessis's teams. There were few lessons to be absorbed from the 7-10 dismissal of Tonga in Cape Town on Tuesday night, the first occasion on which a team selected and prepared by the new coach took the field, save that Du Plessis's reaction was that only injury would create change before the series with the British Isles begins, at Newlands, on June 21.

Du Plessis argued that the XV on Tuesday was picked on form and would have been the same had the opponents been the All Blacks. South Africa's problem is that no label can be pinned on a coach who has no track record. Were one to suggest that he is a proponent of total rugby it would not be out of place, but Du Plessis's rise has everything to do with the complicated politics of South African rugby.

This is not to denigrate a man with a golden touch. At 36, he has the look of one who could still be enjoying the title "Prince of Wings", which was his sobriquet when he played for Western Province and made 12 appearances for South Africa between 1982 and 1989 — the years of a generation starved of international rugby by their country's politics. Du Plessis, a graduate of Stellenbosch University, is also a successful gits trader and a family man with two children.

Why would such a man seek to enter the snake pit of South Africa management, which has used up John Williams, Gertjie Sonnekus, Ian McIntosh, Kitch Christie and André Markgraaff as coaches since the re-entry to the world stage in 1992? Perhaps the answer lies partly in Du Plessis's playing background during the 1980s, when South African provincial rugby became so introverted. He acknowledges, as any player from Stellenbosch would, the influence of the late Danie Craven, but also hints at the frustration of playing with great individuals who so seldom had the chance to express themselves in world rugby's great stadiums.

Now is his chance to mould



Visionary or sacrificial lamb? Du Plessis has no coaching pedigree, but is seen as the man to lead South Africa into the promised land of total rugby

a team in the image that he and colleagues such as Danie Gerber, Johan Heunis and Divan Serfontein might have aspired to had they been allowed. Eleven years ago, Du Plessis and Gerber gave the world a hint of what they were missing when they played for an overseas XV against a five nations' championship XV at Twickenham. Du Plessis electrified the game with a 60-metre crossfield run of such pace and strength that no opponent could touch him as he scored in the corner.

Towards the end of his playing career, Du Plessis and his older brother, Michael, also an international, moved to Transvaal and helped them to a Currie Cup final. It was said then that the brothers ran the back line, even though "Pa" Fesler was the provincial coach. Carel's qualities impressed Louis Luyt, the province's president and now president of the South African Rugby Football Union (Sarbu).

Now is his chance to mould

whose support is vital to any fundamental change at representative level.

In 1994, when Jannie Engelbrecht was managing the Springboks in Wales, it was Du Plessis who attended the World Cup managers' conference on behalf of South Africa. When Markgraaff resigned in disgrace this year, after accusations of racial abuse, Nick Mallett, not unreasonably, hoped for promotion. Mallett, the No 8 who won a Blue at Oxford University in 1979, was Markgraaff's assistant last autumn and a successful coach with Boland, yet Du Plessis was promoted over him. Mallett did not seek to remain as assistant, but will prepare the Emerging Springboks, who play the Lions next Tuesday.

It is clear that Du Plessis has no love for the formulaic game that has become endemic in the southern hemisphere, in which midfield players become no more than battering rams intent on establishing second-phase possession. In that sense, he is already an admirer of the Lions' more gifted individuals, such as Gregor Townsend, Robert Howley and Jeremy Guscott, of whom Du Plessis said: "It's hard to believe he has been left out in the cold."

How swiftly he can bring his ideas into practice and how much panache the South African public will grant him, remains obscured, even though we have the players able to stand out and play with flair.

"You have to adapt your game, you have to make changes and that's where, as a coach, you get tested. We should be innovative, we should take initiatives, because the cycle within rugby

today is no longer a five or ten-year period, it's more like two or three years."

Yet to entrust so significant a post to a coaching novice has baffled traditionalists and is contrary to the usual conservative approach taken here. When Markgraaff resigned in disgrace this year, after accusations of racial abuse, Nick Mallett, not unreasonably, hoped for promotion. Mallett, the No 8 who won a Blue at Oxford University in 1979, was Markgraaff's assistant last autumn and a successful coach with Boland, yet Du Plessis was promoted over him. Mallett did not seek to remain as assistant, but will prepare the Emerging Springboks, who play the Lions next Tuesday.

It is clear that Du Plessis has no love for the formulaic game that has become endemic in the southern hemisphere, in which midfield players become no more than battering rams intent on establishing second-phase possession. In that sense, he is already an admirer of the Lions' more gifted individuals, such as Gregor Townsend, Robert Howley and Jeremy Guscott, of whom Du Plessis said: "It's hard to believe he has been left out in the cold."

How swiftly he can bring his ideas into practice and how much panache the South African public will grant him, remains obscured, even though we have the players able to stand out and play with flair.

"You have to adapt your game, you have to make changes and that's where, as a coach, you get tested. We should be innovative, we should take initiatives, because the cycle within rugby

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

KEENE on CHESS

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

A frequent problem in defence is whether to be active or passive. East had that decision on this hand, from the final trial for the British open team for the 1997 European championships, which started at the weekend.

Dealer North **North-South game** **IMPs**

♦K98
♦Q1074
♦88
♦A883

N-1
♦Q73
♦J9
♦K743
♦QJ105

♦A54
♦A62
♦QJ1052
♦82

♦J1082
♦K853
♦A9
♦K74

South: Lead: seven of hearts
Contract: Four Diamonds by South. Lead: seven of hearts
We used to throw these diamonds in when I was a boy. There were several dubious calls, and I think Rosen's final bid of Four Diamonds is clearly wrong. His side had already done well to push East-West to Three Hearts.

West led the seven of hearts (his partner's system being third and fifth highest). East played the king and South won the ace. He played the jack of diamonds, and ran it to East's ace. East returned a heart, won by West, and West exited with a diamond to South's jack. South now led a club to the ten and East's king. What should East return?

In some circumstances it can be wrong to open up the spade suit. If declarer has K9x,

WORDWATCHING

By Philip Howard

ARSHEEN
a. Toxic gas.
b. Measure of length.
c. Afterglow

WELTBILD
a. View of life.
b. World atlas.
c. Shoe leather

ZYMIC
a. Astronomical.
b. Duplicated.
c. By fermentation

AORIST
a. An aviator.
b. A high-pitched vocalist.
c. A Greek tense

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Times schools
The semi-final and final of the British Schools chess championship, sponsored by *The Times* and endorsed by the British Chess Federation, will take place on July 3 and 4 at the Charing Cross Hotel, London. The four semi-finalists are Hampton School, Manchester Grammar, Methodist College and Oakham School. Those wishing to enter next year's competition should contact the Chief Organiser, Mitchell Taylor, 4 Alders Road, Hale Lane, Edgware HA8 9QG (tel: 081-959 6915).

Staunton wins

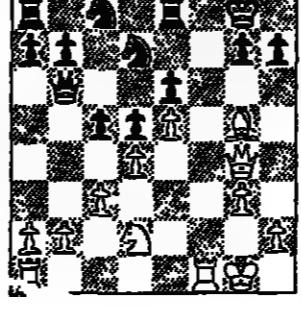
Continuing my series in homage to Howard Staunton, today's game is a win from his mano a mano against Daniel Horwitz, a master of German-Polish extraction, who was largely resident in Paris. During the 1840s Staunton established, consolidated and advanced his reputation by convincing match victories against the leading European masters, St Amant, Horwitz and Harrwitz. It was only in 1851, when he burdened himself by organising the first ever international tournament, as well as trying to compete in it, that Staunton's reputation as a player began to wane.

White Staunton
Black Horwitz
London 1846
Gioachino Piano

1 e4 e5
2 Nf3 Nc6
3 Bc4 Bc5
4 d3 Nf6
5 c3 d6
6 h3 d5
7 Bg5 h6
8 Bf4 Be6
9 Bb3 Kh7

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene
White to play. This position is from the game Kacheishvili — Djordjevic, Pula 1997. White has a strong concentration of force on the kingside. How did he now make the most of this?



Solution on page 49

JULY 11 1997

EQUESTRIANISM

Dixon has last chance to prove herself

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

KAREN DIXON, a regular member of the British three-day event team since 1988, has a final chance to earn selection for the European championships at Burghley in September when she competes with Too Smart in Yorkshire at the Bramham International Horse Trials, which start today.

The trials, which also host the *Yorkshire Post* British Young Riders national championship, take on a new appearance this year. Mark Phillips, the guest course designer, has beefed up the fences for the cross country on Saturday — to an extent that some of the younger horses may not be able to take the straight routes everywhere.

Appropriately, the 90-strong field is stronger than usual. Ian Stark, the winner last year, has a chance ride on Jonquil Hemming's *Rain* on which he won at Floors Castle two weeks ago. Pipper Funnel, the runner-up at Punchestown last month and a leading contender for the British team at Burghley, rides Supreme Rock. Leslie Law, also long-listed for the European championships, competes with Perryfields George.

A notable absentee is William Fox-Pitt, whose intended ride, Derrybrig, owned by Ginny Leng, knocked himself in the field.

Mark Todd, of New Zealand, heads the foreign entries with Broadcast News, a member of New Zealand's bronze medal-winning team in Atlanta. Owned by Vicki Latia, who has now retired from the sport, the 13-year-old gelding was due to go to Badminton last month, but had to be withdrawn when foreign riders were limited to one horse.

Dixon, a member of the British team at the past three Olympic Games and winner of the team gold and individual bronze medals at the 1994 world championships, has to prove herself all over again this weekend. Too

Smart, on which she won at Punchestown in 1994 and was fifth at Burghley the following year, is one of the most talented horses in the sport, but prone to the odd aberration.

Badminton has not proved lucky for Too Smart. He had a run-out in 1995 and 1996 and this year — when he had hoped to earn Dixon her team place — he had to be withdrawn after the dressage suffering from corns. Dixon comes to Bramham in confident mood, however, after successes in one-day events; including second place at Floors Castle. "I think Too Smart is growing up last," she said.

Other leading contenders



Dixon: in confident mood

include Anna Hermann, of Sweden, on Just Merlin; Jean Teulere, of France, on Amonchur; and Andrew Nicholson, of New Zealand, with the hard-pulling Merlin — formerly ridden by Matt Ryan — and New York.

Nicholson, a member of the Olympic bronze medal-winning team in Atlanta, could snatch the lead in the Land-Rover/FEI world rider rankings if he is successful this weekend.

LAND-ROVER/FEI WORLD RIDER CHAMPIONSHIPS, CROYDON (GBR) 21-24 JULY 1997
2. M. Hung (GBR) 217, 3. B. Tait (NZL) 165, 4. W. Fox-Pitt (GBR) 160, 5. B. Davidson (USA) 138; 6. A. Nicholson (NZL) 129, 7. P. Funnel (GBR) 125, 8. K. O'Connor (USA) 122, 9. M. Todd (NZL) 122, 10. J. Burns (USA) 119

AN EXCLUSIVE PRIZE DRAW

THE TIMES

21 CARS TO BE WON DRIVE AWAY IN A BRAND NEW FORD



Start collecting tokens in *The Times* today and you

could be one of 21 readers who will drive off in a new top-of-the-range Ford in the biggest and best car promotion ever. Our prize draw celebrates 21 years of Ford as Britain's favourite car manufacturer by giving you the chance to win one of 21 cars. Included in the many prizes is the Explorer, above. Its powerful 4.0 litre engine, unique five-speed auto transmission, sophisticated 4x4 system and luxury specification helped it to take the American four-wheel drive market by storm. Every day we will feature a different model from the Ford range in our car competition bonanza.

HOW TO ENTER Collect 10 tokens from *The Times* or five from *The Sunday Times* and one from *The Sunday Times*, or two from *The Sunday Times*. All tokens must be differently numbered. Another token will appear in *The Sunday Times* this Sunday. You can enter as many times as you wish but each entry must be on an official Ford prize draw entry form. Terms and conditions appeared in *The Times* on June 2. Tokens should be inserted in the Ford leaflet which appeared with Monday's *Times* or attached to the entry form which will appear in *The Sunday Times* this weekend, or in *The Times* on Saturday June 21. Full details of where to send your entries and tokens are printed on the entry forms.

WHAT HAPPENED IN 1988



FORD announce a record 583,790 cars and 93,038 commercial vehicles registered in Britain

• First female football club executive, Arlene Basset, Reading FC

• Permanent bungee jumping facility introduced in New Zealand

FORD'S 21 YEARS



TOKEN 10

TO FIND OUT ABOUT FORD'S 21 ANNIVERSARY OFFERS CALL 0845 21 11 21

CHANGING TIMES

GOLF

Woods equipped for another long-range strike

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN BETHESDA, MARYLAND

NEVER mind the questions about the Republican tax bill, Government relief for flooded areas of the Midwest or the joint Republican and Democrat package that would repay the United States' \$819 million debt to the UN, there is one issue that is dominating the nation's capital near here this morning. It is this: will Tiger Woods win the second major championship of the year and complete what is known as the second leg of the grand slam?

There is no doubt that Woods can add to the Masters title he won so thrillingly two months ago. The debate is whether he will. He has the ability and the attitude. It is hard to stress how composed and self-assured Woods is for a young man of 21. On Tuesday he faced a grilling from 500 reporters in front of 33 television cameras with as much equanimity as a man might demonstrate when attending a piano recital.

There can be few doubts about his form, even though he came 67th in his last tournament, his worst finish this year. The week before the Masters he went round his home course in Florida in 59. Last week, in a round at Lochinvar, in Houston, Texas, Woods went round in 63. That included one bogey and a missed three-foot putt.

The length of Woods's hitting has not been exaggerated. Though he intends to use his

driver on only three holes — the 6th, 10th and 15th — he hardly loses any length in comparison because he hits his three-wood between 260 and 280 yards and his two-iron about 240. Length is at a premium here. At 7213 yards, Congressional is the longest course used for a US Open.

The 6th is one of the hardest, a 475-yard par five that has been converted into a par four for this event. Greg Norman has had a mind to play it as a three-shotter. In practice, Nick Price needed a beautiful drive and a one-iron to reach the green. Woods got there with a drive and a seven-iron.

The 13th is another monstrous par four, this one of 461 yards. Woods hit a three-wood a mere 290 yards and a six-iron the rest. He truly is prodigious, yet some holes are out of reach even for Woods, who has said he considers the 9th to be a three-shotter. That's all right then. It is 607 yards, partly uphill.

So it is Woods against the field. This time, though, the field, which includes a record 16-strong representation from the European tour, is ready for him. For Woods, this will not be Augusta revisited. There he set a record 18-under-par total and won by 12 strokes.

There are none of the enormously wide fairways and light rough that are always so evident at Augusta. He will not be able to whale away off the tee as he did in April, knowing that even if he strays a few yards offline he will hardly be penalised. The five-inch deep rough will cost even Woods a half-stroke penalty if he ventures into it and he will certainly not be playing a wedge into nine of the greens, as he was at Augusta and, thus, he will not be as accurate.

His putting will, therefore, be put under more pressure. It is worth pointing out that though his length is what was so striking at Augusta, his putting was brilliant, too. It cannot always be brilliant.

Furthermore, there is some pride at stake here. "We are all anxious to see what's going to happen here compared to what happened at Augusta," Colin Montgomerie said. Montgomerie is one of those who ought to challenge Woods. He is long and straight on a course that favours such attributes and putted beautifully when winning at Staley Hall last Sunday.

Nick Faldo is another contender on a such a gruesome course, as is Davis Love III, but Norman may be Woods's greatest threat. He has finished no worse than fifth in his past three events in the United States and has retained his status as No 1 in the world rankings in the face of the Woods onslaught. Norman knows this course as well, having won two tournaments here.

Perhaps the greatest spur of all, though, is what it will mean if Woods wins again. Montgomerie put it best. "I think if he wins here then we've all got to look somewhere else because if he's winning at Augusta and here then we're all in trouble."

Morgan, who finished on 161, came home in 32, four under the card, in a round that included seven birdies and a mere 26 putts. She is a recent graduate of the University of North Carolina where her degree was in geography, which must have come in useful for finding her way this far north.

After her round, Moodie discussed the joys of studying psychology in far out California where she particularly



Woods follows the flight of his ball during practice for the US Open at Congressional. Photograph: Stephen Jaffe



Montgomerie favoured by the conditions

US OPEN TEE-OFF TIMES

United States unless stated

All times BST, except where indicated

- 12:00: D Zinkan, W Porter, J Pillar
- 12:10: R McEvoy, P Goyder, R Black
- 12:20: C Rose, G Waite (NZ), L Silvera
- 12:30: C Parry, A Collart (GB), K Green
- 12:40: S Hulbert, B Chisholm, J Nicholas
- 12:50: S Colwell, I Wooldren (GB), G Norman (Aus)
- 13:00: D Love, C Montgomerie (GB), P Mickelson
- 13:10: M Caviglio, S Elkington (Aus), A Brondum, N Price (Zim), T Watson
- 13:30: M Hulbert, Lary Rinker, P Avila, R Fazio (GB), J Price (GB)
- 13:40: R Cochran, C Wollmann, D Conn
- 14:00: D Harrington (Ire), D Waldorf, F Funk
- 14:10: J Roberts, J Cook, T Bjorn (Den)
- 14:20: M Bradley, M Reid, J Haas
- 14:30: J Shuman, H Surton, S Simpson
- 14:40: V Singh (Ind), R Twey, S Hoch
- 14:50: R Gunn, R Keayne, M Schene (Japan)
- 15:00: G Sleath, J Estes, H Kase (Japan)
- 15:00: M Clark, S McRoy, J Mazzola
- 15:00: S Etno, K Jones, M Marion

- 15:10: D Zinkan, W Porter, J Pillar
- 15:20: R McEvoy, P Goyder, R Black
- 15:30: Leeinv, R McEvoy, K Gibson
- 15:40: C Parry (Aus), S Dunlap, M Weitz
- 15:50: P Mitchell (GB), B Tennison, G Nicklaus
- 16:10: T Woods, J Jones, T Mize
- 16:20: T Mize, J M Chabaud (Sp), P Azinger
- 17:20: C Pavin, N Faldo (GB), L Janzen
- 17:30: P Stewart, E B (SA), J Daly
- 17:40: G Maze, D Stockton, L Nelson
- 17:50: R Russell (GB), L Matteace, G Knell
- 18:00: O Brown, D Trotter, R Mast
- 18:10: D Schreyer, T Nose, P Covarrubias
- 18:20: S McCormon, C Smith, M Swartz
- 18:30: S Snider, J Monse, R Allenby (Aus)
- 18:40: P Stankowski, S Appleby (Aus), J Parnevick (Swe)
- 18:50: M O'Meara, L Westwood (GB), J Bunn
- 18:50: B Faxon, F Nobuo (NZ), T Tolke
- 19:10: P Broadhurst (GB), J Furyk, D Jowal
- 19:20: S McCormon, D Clarke (GB), J Goss
- 19:30: D White, M Davison, E Fryatt (GB)
- 19:40: B Hughes (Aus), J Green, M Gogel
- 19:50: G Towne, R Wyke, G Robson
- 20:00: M Aguirre, M Soosa, J Ferentz (USA)
- 20:10: J Aguirre, J Samelsberger, P Parker
- 20:20: K Schall, K Allhoff, B Waymire
- 20:30: R Hunter, S Adams, R Butcher

* denotes amateur

Geographer enjoying lie of land

BY PATRICIA DAVIES

BECKY MORGAN, the Welsh international from Monmouth, equalled Janice Moodie's one-day old course record of 67 in the second round of qualifying for the British women's amateur championship at Cruden Bay, near Peterhead, yesterday

Nick Faldo is another contender on a such a gruesome course, as is Davis Love III, but Norman may be Woods's greatest threat. He has finished no worse than fifth in his past three events in the United States and has retained his status as No 1 in the world rankings in the face of the Woods onslaught. Norman knows this course as well, having won two tournaments here.

Nick Faldo is another contender on a such a gruesome course, as is Davis Love III, but Norman may be Woods's greatest threat. He has finished no worse than fifth in his past three events in the United States and has retained his status as No 1 in the world rankings in the face of the Woods onslaught. Norman knows this course as well, having won two tournaments here.

Morgan, who finished on 161, came home in 32, four

under the card, in a round that included seven birdies and a mere 26 putts. She is a recent graduate of the University of North Carolina where her degree was in geography, which must have come in useful for finding her way this far north.

After her round, Moodie discussed the joys of studying psychology in far out California where she particularly

enjoyed the abnormal branch of the subject, not least because the lecturer was a bearded ex-lady, and being plied with beer by none other than Tiger Woods. Well, at least the Masters champion poured Moodie one brew at Mhairi McKay's 21st-birthday party.

More prosaically, Moodie was full of praise for Laurie Phillips, her caddie, the

18-year-old scion of the Kilmarnock Arms, a local hotel. He won the Scottish schoolboys' title last season and his knowledge was invaluable, particularly on the greens.

Kim Rostron, the English champion, and Alison Rose, the Scottish champion, qualified comfortably, despite a brace of double bogeys for the former and a triple bogey and a double in the space of three holes for the latter.

There was also notable improvement from three Englishwomen. Rebecca Hudson, the girls' champion, had a 69 that was ten shots better than her opening round and included an eagle three at the 5th. Two Curtis Cup players, Elaine Ratcliffe and Karen Stupples, had 70 and 71 respectively, an advance on their Tuesday efforts of 84 and 79.

The youngest competitor, 14-year-old Becky Brewerton, of Abergele and Pensarn, near Flint, finished on 159 and was one of seven competitors playing-off for the last six qualifying places.

CRUDEN BAY DETAILS

LEADING QUALIFYING SCORES: 137, J Moodie (Wales) 67, T Woods (USA) 70, 140, AB Sanchez (Sp) 72, 79, 141, B Maclean (Monmouth) 74, 75, 142, S McCormon (GB) 75, 76, 143, M Farrelly (Ire) 75, 77, 143, J Mair (Cymru) 75, 78, 143, R Russell (GB) 75, 79, 143, M Farrelly (Ire) 75, 78, 143, S McCormon (GB) 75, 79, 143, D Faxon (USA) 75, 77, 143, M Farrelly (Ire) 75, 78, 143, J Mair (Cymru) 75, 79, 143, T Woods (USA) 75, 77, 143, W Harrington (Ire) 75, 78, 143, R Hunter (GB) 75, 77, 143, M Farrelly (Ire) 75, 78, 143, J Mair (Cymru) 75, 79, 143, M Farrelly (Ire) 75, 78, 143, S McCormon (GB) 75, 79, 143, D Faxon (USA) 75, 77, 143, M Farrelly (Ire) 75, 78, 143, J Mair (Cymru) 75, 79, 143, T Woods (USA) 75, 77, 143, W Harrington (Ire) 75, 78, 143, R Hunter (GB) 75, 77, 143, M Farrelly (Ire) 75, 78, 143, J Mair (Cymru) 75, 79, 143, S McCormon (GB) 75, 79, 143, D Faxon (USA) 75, 77, 143, M Farrelly (Ire) 75, 78, 143, J Mair (Cymru) 75, 79, 143, T Woods (USA) 75, 77, 143, W Harrington (Ire) 75, 78, 143, R Hunter (GB) 75, 77, 143, M Farrelly (Ire) 75, 78, 143, J Mair (Cymru) 75, 79, 143, S McCormon (GB) 75, 79, 143, D Faxon (USA) 75, 77, 143, M Farrelly (Ire) 75, 78, 143, J Mair (Cymru) 75, 79, 143, T Woods (USA) 75, 77, 143, W Harrington (Ire) 75, 78, 143, R Hunter (GB) 75, 77, 143, M Farrelly (Ire) 75, 78, 143, J Mair (Cymru) 75, 79, 143, S McCormon (GB) 75, 79, 143, D Faxon (USA) 75, 77, 143, M Farrelly (Ire) 75, 78, 143, J Mair (Cymru) 75, 79, 143, T Woods (USA) 75, 77, 143, W Harrington (Ire) 75, 78, 143, R Hunter (GB) 75, 77, 143, M Farrelly (Ire) 75, 78, 143, J Mair (Cymru) 75, 79, 143, S McCormon (GB) 75, 79, 143, D Faxon (USA) 75, 77, 143, M Farrelly (Ire) 75, 78, 143, J Mair (Cymru) 75, 79, 143, T Woods (USA) 75, 77, 143, W Harrington (Ire) 75, 78, 143, R Hunter (GB) 75, 77, 143, M Farrelly (Ire) 75, 78, 143, J Mair (Cymru) 75, 79, 143, S McCormon (GB) 75, 79, 143, D Faxon (USA) 75, 77, 143, M Farrelly (Ire) 75, 78, 143, J Mair (Cymru) 75, 79, 143, T Woods (USA) 75, 77, 143, W Harrington (Ire) 75, 78, 143, R Hunter (GB) 75, 77, 143, M Farrelly (Ire) 75, 78, 143, J Mair (Cymru) 75, 79, 143, S McCormon (GB) 75, 79, 143, D Faxon (USA) 75, 77, 143, M Farrelly (Ire) 75, 78, 143, J Mair (Cymru) 75, 79, 143, T Woods (USA) 75, 77, 143, W Harrington (Ire) 75, 78, 143, R Hunter (GB) 75, 77, 143, M Farrelly (Ire) 75, 78, 143, J Mair (Cymru) 75, 79, 143, S McCormon (GB) 75, 79, 143, D Faxon (USA) 75, 77, 143, M Farrelly (Ire) 75, 78, 143, J Mair (Cymru) 75, 79, 143, T Woods (USA) 75, 77, 143, W Harrington (Ire) 75, 78, 143, R Hunter (GB) 75, 77, 143, M Farrelly (Ire) 75, 78, 143, J Mair (Cymru) 75, 79, 143, S McCormon (GB) 75, 79, 143, D Faxon (USA) 75, 77, 143, M Farrelly (Ire) 75, 78, 143, J Mair (Cymru) 75, 79, 143, T Woods (USA) 75, 77, 143, W Harrington (Ire) 75, 78, 143, R Hunter (GB) 75, 77, 143, M Farrelly (Ire) 75, 78, 143, J Mair (Cymru) 75, 79, 143, S McCormon (GB) 75, 79, 143, D Faxon (USA) 75, 77, 143, M Farrelly (Ire) 75, 78, 143, J Mair (Cymru) 75, 79, 143, T Woods (USA) 75, 77, 143, W Harrington (Ire) 75, 78, 143, R Hunter (GB) 75, 77, 143, M Farrelly (Ire) 75, 78, 143, J Mair (Cymru) 75, 79, 143, S McCormon (GB) 75, 79, 143, D Faxon (USA) 75, 77, 143, M Farrelly (Ire) 75, 78, 143, J Mair (Cymru) 75, 79, 143, T Woods (USA) 75, 77, 143, W Harrington (Ire) 75, 78, 143, R Hunter (GB) 75, 77, 143, M Farrelly (Ire) 75, 78, 143, J Mair (Cymru) 75, 79, 143, S McCormon (GB) 75, 79, 143, D Faxon (USA) 75, 77, 143, M Farrelly (Ire) 75, 78, 143, J Mair (Cymru) 75, 79, 143, T Woods (USA) 75, 77, 143, W Harrington (Ire) 75, 78, 143, R Hunter (GB) 75, 77, 143, M Farrelly (Ire) 75, 78, 143, J Mair (Cymru) 75, 79, 143, S McCormon (GB) 75, 79, 143, D Faxon (USA) 75, 77, 143, M Farrelly (Ire) 75, 78, 143, J Mair (Cymru) 75, 79, 143, T Woods (USA) 75, 77, 143, W Harrington (Ire) 75, 78, 143, R Hunter (GB) 75, 77, 143, M Farrelly (Ire) 75, 78, 143, J Mair (Cymru) 75, 79, 143, S McCormon (GB) 75, 79, 143, D Faxon (USA) 75, 77, 143, M Farrelly (Ire) 75, 78, 143, J Mair (Cymru) 75, 79, 143, T Woods (USA) 75, 77, 143, W Harrington (Ire) 75, 78, 143, R Hunter (GB) 75, 77, 143, M Farrelly (Ire) 75, 78, 143, J Mair (Cymru) 75, 79, 143, S McCormon (GB) 75, 79, 143, D Faxon (USA) 75, 77, 143, M Farrelly (Ire) 75, 78, 143, J Mair (Cymru) 75, 79, 143, T Woods (USA) 75, 77, 143, W Harrington (Ire) 75, 78, 143, R Hunter (GB) 75, 77, 143, M Farrelly (Ire) 75, 78, 143, J Mair (Cymru) 75, 79, 143, S McCormon (GB) 75, 79, 143, D Faxon (USA) 75, 77, 143, M Farrelly (Ire) 75, 78, 143, J Mair (Cymru) 75, 79, 143, T Woods (USA) 75, 77, 143, W Harrington (Ire) 75, 78, 143, R Hunter (GB) 75, 77, 143, M Farrelly (Ire) 75, 78, 143, J Mair (Cymru) 75, 79, 143, S McCormon (GB) 75, 79, 143, D Faxon (USA) 75, 77, 143, M Farrelly (Ire) 75, 78, 143, J Mair (Cymru) 75, 79, 143, T Woods (USA) 75, 77, 143, W Harrington (Ire) 75, 78, 143, R Hunter (GB) 75, 77, 143,

US
hope?
JUNE 12 1997
THE TIMES THURSDAY JUNE 12 1997

Madness in any method of trying to beat the weather

It is a brave man who tampers with the rules of sport. And an even braver man who takes on the British weather. Just ask the two bold — some would say foolhardy — statisticians who are trying to change the face of one-day cricket. These two are academics boffins to the crowds, and they have risen to one of the biggest challenges in cricket — rain.

They are Frank Duckworth, an early-retiring statistician, and Tony Lewis, a mathematician from the University of the West of England. They are spending their summer cloistered by their telephones, their Cefaxes and computers, hammering at the ready, waiting for the rain to start so that they can rule on the destiny of rain-hit matches.

They have developed "The Duckworth/Lewis method for setting a fair target score in an interrupted limited-overs cricket

match", and they say, with utter confidence, that their method is more logical and fairer than any known to cricketers man.

They are probably right, but to the scorer, the player and the spectator, unschooled in the mysteries of statistics, their system is puzzling and has been condemned as number-crunching gobbledegook that leaves everyone baffled. They feel under seige and feel it is time to hit back. They are even said to be wounded by some players referring to it as the "Vera Duckworth method".

Statisticians have always had a marginal and entertaining role in the subculture of cricket. They have been an adorment, providing historical comparisons, unlikely oddities, diverting footnotes.

They have been eccentric but endearing anoraks. Now, for the first time, statisticians can influence the outcome of a game.

For all its popularity and excitement, the one-day game remains an artificial creation. It was spawned in England from the dwindling interest in three-day cricket. A limited-overs match could be completed in a day and a result was always achieved; provided, of course, it did not rain. It proved a huge success — no matter that cricket's upper crust looked at it with disdain — and threatened to turn Test cricket into a dinosaur awaiting extinction.

To purists, the one-day game is still an aberration and when you add to its artificiality the computer-aided adjustment of target scores after the intervention of the weather, the result can be so bizarre that the spectator cries "Enough!"

Duckworth and Lewis started with the simple premise that a team that knows it has only 20 overs to bat will go at it more



furiously than if it had 40. Their formulae and tables make allowances for downpours and showers, taking into account when they occur and the number of wickets that have fallen at the time.

In reality, these two endearing statisticians, the front-line attack in the match between brain and rain, are attempting the impossible. The truth is that they cannot

win. For what cricketers, and those who watch them, really want is for games not to be interrupted and for the weather to allow them to be played to their natural conclusion.

Duckworth puts the problem with some elegance. "The ultimate system in one-day cricket," he says, "is simply to play all the overs, no matter what the weather. I would rather see them play cricket under umbrellas, or use lights and covers to complete a game in extra time. But if you have to make allowance for overs lost, our system is the best and the fairest."

It is not the only system in play. In Australia, Lewis says, they use the "discounted most productive overs system", and South Africa has its "Clark curve", but he is convinced that their system is the best and will eventually rule the world. Indeed, it has already been used in the International Cricket Council qualifying tournament for the 1999 World Cup.

Jokes about rain and cricket are as old as the game and whenever a shower disrupts an innings, players and spectators moan about the weather. Duckworth and Lewis have given them a new target for their frustration. They will stop moaning about the rain and moan about the statisticians.

At the root of it all is the refusal to accept that sometimes "rain stopped play" is the only meaningful result possible. Statistical juggling to get a result, despite the weather, is in the same league as the penalty shoot-out, the sudden-death play-off, the tie-break or the spin of a coin. They are all artificial, all to some extent unpopular and unsuccessful, but at least the shoot-out and the spin of a coin are easily understood. Lewis admits that the system now on trial may leave many perplexed and

believes that the best he can hope for is that people get used to it. They are not used to it yet. When the method is used, the complaints flow in.

Typical is one protesting about an "unfathomable" ruling last weekend. It read: "On Sunday Hampshire scored 170 from 33 overs in their Axa Life League match against Derbyshire, but Derbyshire were then told that they had to score 181 runs from the same number of overs to win."

Duckworth and Lewis must be hoping for a long, hot, dry summer. They may be the best statisticians in the business, and their system may be logical, elegant and the toast of mathematicians; but the real problem in the one-day game is the rain itself. And even their system cannot stop it raining.

JOHN BRYANT

CRICKET

Lancashire looking for lift from Atherton

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

LANCASHIRE and Kent, ambitious counties with large and demanding memberships, each recruited a new coach from overseas for this summer. One of them can, so far, do no wrong, while the other has rapidly become acquainted with the magnitude of his assignment.

When the clubs meet at Old Trafford this morning, Kent and their new mentor, John Wright, will be looking for a victory that could take them to the head of the Britannic Assurance championship table. Lancashire and their Australian coach, Dav Whatmore, will be seeking points to stay off the bottom.

The contrast does not end there, for Kent have a place in the final of the Benson and Hedges Cup, something Lancashire customarily achieve as of routine. This year, they failed even to qualify for the knockout stage. Third place in the Sunday league, in which Kent lie second, must be scant consolation to Whatmore just now.

Lancashire's perennial disaffection with championship cricket is becoming a tired subject. Certainly, the Lancashire players must be tired of constant reminders that they deserve no respite until they begin to perform as well as a team with their resources and accomplishments should.

They have yet to win this season, after five matches, and although the return of Michael Atherton and John Crawley will theoretically strengthen them today, in practice it may be different. Atherton, especially, finds the process of readjustment increasingly difficult after an emotionally-draining Test match, and for him they come no more draining or fulfilling than Edgbaston.

One man who will not be short of incentives is Dean Headley. He might have been part of the Edgbaston victory but for another untimely injury, and he is anxious to reinforce his claim before he crosses the thin dividing line that separates the coming men

from those whose chances passed them by.

Headley bowled fast and incisively in Kent's Benson and Hedges Cup semi-final win over Northamptonshire on Tuesday and, if his suspect back allows him to play today, has an opportunity to impress both Atherton and the England coach, David Lloyd. The chairman of selectors, David Graveney, will be at Old Trafford tomorrow.

Two members of the England team are rested by their counties today, a welcome sign of the co-operative spirit that comes more easily, perhaps, with a successful national team than one that is failing. Darren Gough, who will continue to be England's most important bowling weapon against Australia, missed Yorkshire's visit to Surrey, who have agreed to give Graham Thorpe the game off.

Having beaten Surrey and Yorkshire in becoming the improbable leaders, Gloucestershire will expect another victory from their home fixture with Worcestershire, whose captain, Tom Moody, returns after suffering back trouble. These are games that Gloucestershire need to win if their romantic challenge is to be sustained.

There is a significant match at Cardiff, between Glamorgan in fifth place and Middlesex fourth and both are contemplating the use of two spin bowlers. At Basingstoke, by way of contrast, a traditionally quick pitch will be attractive for the visiting Somerset attack of Andy Caddick and Andre van Troost, both passed to play after fitness concerns.

The most progressive events of the round, however, will come at Hove, where play today, tomorrow and on Monday in Sussex's match against Essex will start at noon and continue until 7.30. Sussex wanted to start later still until Essex demurred, but the initiative is a good one, allowing those who work office hours to see a full session of play. It deserves to succeed.

Just how concerned the Australians are is evident from the decision to include Reiffel in the side to play Nottinghamshire only 24



Reiffel ponders the vagaries of the Australia selection process as the rain falls at Nottingham yesterday

Australia packs its Pistol after all

Simon Wilde finds Paul Reiffel wet and a bit bemused, but only too eager to fire

OF COURSE, no Englishman should feel sorry for an Australian cricket team, but even the most hard-bitten patriot would concede that things are not going well for our baggy-capped brethren.

When what they most wanted was the chance for their bowlers to spend time in the middle yesterday, Nottingham gave the Australians rain, so much of it that the first day of their match at Trent Bridge was abandoned at 3pm. With only five days to prepare for the second Test match at Lord's, the Australian itinerary is looking ever more ill-judged.

There were some stony faces in their camp yesterday, as they passed the time writing letters home, jogging the boundary and kicking around a football. The longest face belonged to Andrew Bichel, who was to see a specialist in the afternoon about his hip complaint, and may leave the tour today; the most bemused was that of Paul Reiffel, who has arrived to strengthen their fast-eroding bowling resources.

Just how concerned the Australians are is evident from the decision to include Reiffel in the side to play Nottinghamshire only 24

hours after he stepped off the plane. They want him in contention for Lord's and, for the rain, he would have bowled yesterday and perhaps enjoyed himself.

The pitch has grass on it and would have suited his style of seam bowling, a style that brought him success here four years ago — he played parts in wins at Headingley and Edgbaston and took 19 wickets in three Tests — and made his omission from the original party such a surprise.

Last week Reiffel was at home in Melbourne with his wife, looking forward to the birth of their child, being

"dragged along" to physical training with the Victoria squad and still trying to fathom his omission. His fitness was certainly factor — he was plagued by hamstring trouble on the recent tour of South Africa — as was Australia's policy, now abandoned, of playing only two spin bowlers.

Reiffel was told of his exclusion by Jim Higgins, a selector. "I had seen it all begin to slip away in South Africa, but was pretty upset and disappointed," Reiffel said. "Everything has happened so quickly that I have not had time to think what it means. I was following what was going on and thought I had a chance when I heard of some of the injuries. I was told I was coming on Saturday, was on the plane on Monday and now I am sitting here. I know I won't get another opportunity to tour England. I am 31 and will be 35 next time we come."

His experience should benefit an attack that knows relatively little about where to pitch the ball on slower English pitches and has so far lacked the spark of inspiration, though his first impressions were not of a team in disarray. "The guys are very professional and one loss is not enough to put them down in the dumps," he said. "I would describe the mood when I walked into the camp as quietly determined."

If "Pistol", as he is known, is to fire, he needs to find over under his belt, find a rhythm — and some luck. He still wears the revolver-shaped gold earring that his wife gave him in Guyana two years ago. It brought him fortune then, as he took a central role in a historic series win over West Indies, and he has kept it ever since. The Australians could do with it working its magic in the next few weeks.

JOHN EMBUREY, the former England off spinner, has retired from first-class cricket at 44. During a career that began in 1973 he took 1,608 wickets, scored 12,021 runs and made 64 Test appearances. He won numerous domestic honours with Middlesex.

He is to concentrate more

fully on his coaching role with Northamptonshire, although he will continue to play in one-day matches. "It has been difficult combining playing and coaching responsibilities," Emburey said yesterday. "My absence from the championship side should open up more opportunities for our younger players."

Emburey calls it a day

JOHN EMBUREY, the former England off spinner, has retired from first-class cricket at 44. During a career that began in 1973 he took 1,608 wickets, scored 12,021 runs and made 64 Test appearances. He won numerous domestic honours with Middlesex.

He is to concentrate more

appreciation of his innings by spectators and players alike was a measure of the regard in which he is held. Which brings us to ...

5. The crowd. There were some daft things sung on Sunday night and even one Mexican wave is one too many, but otherwise it was a rollicking atmosphere. My thanks go, as Cyril Fletcher used to say, to the six lads and lasses in the Rea Bank Stand whose cards split out, as requested: H-U-R-R-A-H. Next time, though, please bring an exclamation mark.

6. The batsmen were not the only ones to play a few strokes. There were some spanking ones in the press box. Mike Selvey quoted Eamonn Andrews. Christopher Martin-Jenkins honoured the House of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha by referring to Edward VII in the first paragraph, but the form prize went to M. C. J. Nicholas of the upper fifth whose essay included the phrase, "Lord lord, this is dynamite."

7. Blewett's cover drive. An absolute peach. 8. Healy's performance be-

hind the stumps. He kept the Australians alive in the field, even when their heads were barely visible above the rising tide. This is a proper cricketer.

9. Test Match Special confirmed that it has found itself again, after a tricky year or two. Dennis Lillee and Jeff Thomson gave the coverage something to go along side the light and shade of Agnew and CML, who use that rarest of things on radio sport these days, proper English. (Best not to tell Aggers, though. His head's big enough as it is). The crowning moment came on Sunday, when Fred Trueman said that Kerry Packer was "a very nice man".

10. The spirit of the game. The players of both teams showed a respect for the game's customs by applauding the deeds of others and, being led by good men, there is no reason why they should not continue to do so.

11. The bunting slip in my wallet, which has £50 on Australia to win the game at 6-4, placed a full hour before the toss. How do you wipe tears away when your eyes are dry?

Harrogate intent on expansion

DESPITE a washout in the Costcutter Cup final yesterday, the Harrogate club unveiled redevelopment plans for the 120-year-old headquarters at St George's Road with unmitigated determination (Michael Austin writes).

The project, costing £1.85 million, would turn an adjacent site, unused by the Ministry of Defence for the past two years, into one of the finest sports complexes in the North, including two more cricket arenas, tennis courts, an athletics track and a sports hall.

Harrogate is seeking government aid to persuade the MoD to allocate 15 acres of the 22-acre site lying idle to the local council for a nominal sum. The council lease the present ground to the club and are giving the scheme their full backing.

The final between Durham and Gloucestershire yesterday was settled by the toss of a coin — in favour of Durham, who thus retain the trophy.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 47
ARSHEEN
(b) A measure of length used in Russia and Turkey. *Martyn, Geographic Magazine, 1734*: "The Arsheen or Russian Ell, equal to twenty-eight and one-tenth inches English."

WELTBILD
(a) A view life and the world, less tricky to pronounce (and spell) than *Weltanschauung*. *L. Mumford, 1934*: "Stieglitz helped restore those values that had been left out of the *weltbild* of his contemporaries."

ZYMIC
(c) Pertaining to or connected with fermentation. Applied to a supposed acid (afterwards shown to be impure lactic acid) obtained by the fermentation of starch substances. It comes from *zymum*, the Latin for "beer", and the last word in the big Latin dictionary.
AORIST
(c) The past tense of Greek verbs. It denotes a simple past occurrence, with none of the limitations to completeness or continuance of other tenses. It corresponds to the simple past tense in English, e.g. "he loved", not "he was loving" or "he had loved". From the Greek for "united".

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
1 Rf7! KxR (Otherwise 2 Rg7+ will mate quickly) 2 Qh5+ KB3 3 Rf+ Nf6 ex6 with a crushing attack.

OTHER APPLIES TO OTHER LEADERS IN THE UK ONLY. SEND SAE FOR DETAILS OF CHARGES EX-UK AND OTHER TITLES.

TIMES CROSSWORD - Books 111, 121, 131, 149 each. The Times Crossword - Book 2 (40 puzzles) £5.99. Crossword Solver's Dictionary £1.99. Roger's Thesaurus £3.99 (P/B) £4.99. Times Crossword Manual £1.99. Roger's Thesaurus £3.99 (P/B) £4.99. Times Crossword Collection £12.99. Times Crossword Annual £12.99. Times Crossword Book £12.99. Times Crossword Book £12.99. The Times Jumbo Crossword £14.99. The Times Two Crossword Book £12.99. Also The Times Night Sky £12.99. New version £14.99.

IBM PC/XT - Books 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 16

TENNIS: RESILIENT RUSEDSKI JOINS HENMAN AND LEE IN THIRD ROUND AT QUEEN'S

Chang stitched up by Draper

BY JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

An encouraging start for the host nation gained further momentum yesterday when Greg Rusedski became the third Briton to advance to the third round of the Stella Artois championships. It was otherwise a day when the big noises took to the grass and Michael Chang, the No 2 seed, failed to flourish in a compelling tussle with Scott Draper.

Defeat came bitterly to Chang, whose game suffered, along with his demeanour, through a succession of disputed line calls. In effortlessly advancing to the first set the American looked poised to emulate Pete Sampras, the No 1 seed, who had earlier cruised away from Javier Frana on his reappearance at Queen's. But Draper, evidently made of sterner stuff, re-

RESULTS

First round

G Rusedski (GB) b S Woodforde (Aus) 4-6, 6-3
Second round

J Gilmour (Fra) b M Rieser (Switz) 7-6, 6-3
M Prichard (Aus) b J Stark (USA) 7-6, 3-6-3
P Rafter (Aus) b S Lemoine (Can) 6-3, 7-5
B Blazquez (Can) b S Woodforde (Aus) 6-0, 6-2
P Sampras (USA) b J Frana (Fra) 6-3, 6-2
B Steven (NZL) b D Nestor (Can) 6-4, 6-4
G Ivanisevic (Cro) b L Paez (Ind) 7-6, 6-3
S Draper (Aus) b M Chang (USA) 6-3, 2-6, 7-6
S Simon (Fra) b K Pospisil (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2
Rusedski b H Ullent (SA) 7-5, 4-6, 7-6

bound to square the contest in equally convincing fashion.

What followed may finally prompt Chang to consider a more aggressive approach to the demands of grass. Chang has worked hard to pep up his serve but his grass-court strategy has changed little, if at all. He has the legs of a pit bull terrier and patrols the baseline as one might guard a house. The problem is that he remains powerless to prevent a break-in through the back door.

Draper, himself more comfortable on clay, simply made the better transition. He followed his service to the net, occasionally suffering from Chang's limitless repertoire of passing shots. But he thoroughly deserved the upset even if Chang, who saved four



Draper celebrates his victory over Chang, the No 2 seed, at Queen's yesterday

by Tim Henman and Martin Lee, the youngster from Sussex. Lee learnt yesterday that his opponent would be Goran Ivanisevic, the No 3 seed, who eventually overpowered the touch play of Leander Paes, of India, in straight sets.

After prevailing 7-6, 6-3, Ivanisevic revealed he almost

defaulted after a wrist injury rendered him incapable of practising constructively 24 hours earlier. "I couldn't serve properly, I couldn't hit a forehand, but the doctor said my wrist could not get worse," he said. If Lee's assignment appears formidable, can take heart from Ivanisevic's

suspect record against Britons on home soil. Asked about the match, the Croatian reflected: "I have some bad experiences with English players so I stay quiet. He [Lee] beat two good players this week so he can play tennis, that's for sure." Just how well, Ivanisevic will discover today.

Surgeon raises doubts over Graf recovery

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

THE surgeon who performed surgery on Steffi Graf said yesterday that he could not guarantee that the seven-times Wimbledon champion's left knee would sufficiently recover to permit her return to competitive tennis.

Dr Reinhard Weinstabl, who operated on Graf in Vienna on Tuesday, tempered Graf's confident prediction of a comeback within six months. He said the prognosis was complicated by Graf's long history of problems with

the offending joint. She has already spent three months on the sidelines this year after undergoing arthroscopic surgery in February. Of her return to the tour, Weinstabl said: "That is certainly our aim. Whether that aim can be reached, one cannot say now." He added that the post-operative process was "nothing but an attempt to restore [Graf's] health" in an optimal way. The first step has been made.

However, the German Olympic team and tennis federation doctor, Joseph Keul, was more optimistic. "I

think Steffi Graf will be 100 per cent again by the end of the year," he said. For the past 12 months Graf, the reigning Wimbledon and US Open champion, has been plagued by cartilage and tendon damage to her knee. She will miss the defence of both crowns. Given the deterioration in the form of Conchita Martinez, the Wimbledon champion three years ago, Graf's tribulations suggest a new generation now populating the women's tennis hierarchy, time is not on Graf's side. She celebrates her 28th birthday tomorrow.

This injury is the latest in a series of

setbacks for Graf, who has won 21 grand-slam titles and more than \$20 million in prize-money. A chronic back condition has repeatedly threatened her career, and her father, Peter, was convicted, pending appeal, of tax irregularities in Germany six months ago. She ended 1996 as the world No 1, but was usurped in that position by Martina Hingis in March. With a new generation now populating the women's tennis hierarchy, time is not on Graf's side. She celebrates her 28th birthday tomorrow.

Smith puts up brave fight as British fall

BRITISH hopes ended at the DFS Classic women's tournament at Edgbaston yesterday when Samantha Smith and Lucie Ahl lost their second-round matches.

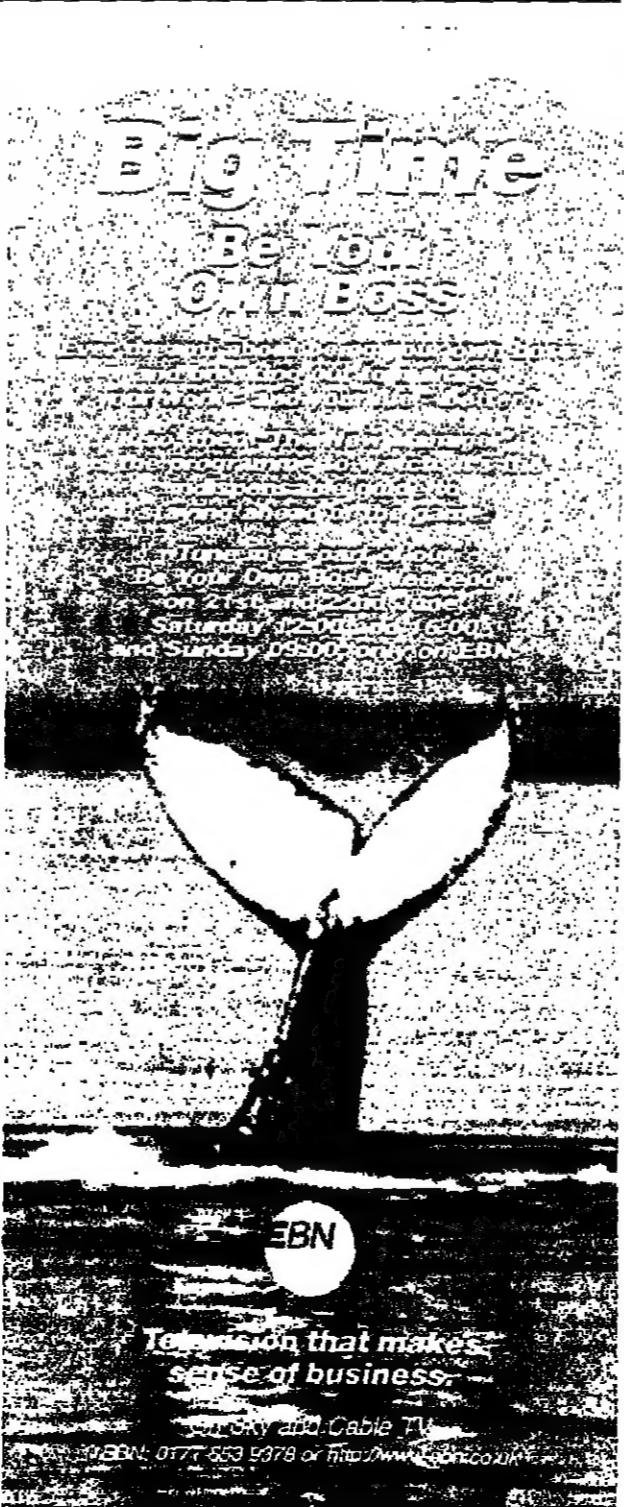
Smith, the British No 1 from Essex, was first to go, losing 6-7, 6-4 to the No 3 seed Lisa Raymond, of the United States. Ahl put up a strong fight, but the experience of Dominique Van Roost, the No 6 seed, proved too much and the Belgian won 7-5, 6-2.

Smith went close to pulling off an upset when she had four set points in the first set and led 4-2 in the second, but Raymond, who last week reached the fourth round of the French Open, turned up the pressure at the right times to win.

"Obviously I'm disappointed with the result, but she played some unbelievable points and I couldn't have done anything more," Smith said. "When she had chances she was able to put big serves in. I wasn't able to raise my game when I needed it."

For Ahl, it was the first experience of taking on a top-100 player. Van Roost was the world No 25 at the start of the week. The Devon player was pleased to find that her level — around the 200 mark — was not too far away from the higher standard. "I didn't really know what to expect," she said. "I was pleased to go out there and compete with her."

Gustavo Kuerten beat Marcelo Charpentier, of Argentina, 6-1, 6-3 in Bologna yesterday in his first match since winning the French Open last weekend.



Television that makes sense of business

SABC-TV, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 09H00-10H00 GREENBAK

0800-0900 SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 09H00-10H00 GREENBAK

0777 883 5978 or <http://www.sabctv.co.za>

© 1997 SABC-TV. All rights reserved.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Crime: it's a mugger's game

Crime Beat

BBC1, 8.00pm

The crime prevention series continues to transmit an upbeat message. The statistics of recorded crime may be rising again after three years' decline but the police are hitting back. Tonight we see them in action against muggers, starting with a perfect operation. A tip-off and surveillance leads to the arrest of three young men seconds after they have snatched a woman's handbag containing £2,000. We also witness dawn raids on suspected persistent offenders and follow a policewoman decoy hoping that muggers will try to steal her expensive-looking watch. The whole entrapment may spring to mind and more contentious still is the practice of openly videoing suspects before any crime is committed. But this is the police's show and their PR offensive is slick and persuasive.



Harassed Jeremy Spake (BBC1, 8.30pm)

involved in shifting heavy cargo. This time they are travelling back to Moscow as passengers. They have lots of excess baggage and are trying to offer inducements to Spake to nod it through. To add to Spake's bad day a palette of engine parts refuses to fit into the cargo hold. Meanwhile Anita Newport, manager of the Royal Suite, is preparing for a red carpet visit from the President of Latvia. But there is trouble with hoisting the Latvian flag. Finally a car fire in Terminal 5 means a busy time for the duty officer, Michelle Harris.

Bliss

ITV, 8.30pm

A pilot which drew ten million viewers was bound to result in a series, so back comes Simon Shepherd as the arrogant, insensitive and insecure immunologist, Dr Sam Bliss. After his whingeing Will in *Peak Practice*, Shepherd seems to be cornering the market in unlikeable doctors. The starting point for the opening story is that Dr Sam has spent years trying to develop a vaccine against malaria. But his work looks like being aborted when two of the students taking part in his trials meet mysterious deaths, his lab is shut down and he is suspended. There is, of course, much more to it than that. In what is essentially a medical whodunit, cleverly plotted but needing a clear head to follow all the ramifications, Dr Sam turns detective and uncovers the truth. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Thursday Afternoon Play: *Act of Faith*

Radio 4, 2.00pm

The forthcoming defence review, announced last week by the Government, will pose the sort of dilemmas that this play examines, albeit in a different field. Defence means jobs, ergo cuts in defence mean a loss of jobs. The nuclear industry is also a big employer, therefore employees and management have a vested interest in giving the industry a good public image. David Naughton's thriller about the dichotomy between dark secrets and the needs of the economy is something of a coup for the BBC and perhaps for Sellafield, the nuclear power plant in Cumbria around which the play is set. *Act of Faith* was recorded in the area and inside Sellafield, the first time British Nuclear Fuels has given access to the plant for such a purpose.

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley 2.00pm Nick Campbell 4.00 Kevin Grainger 8.15 Newsbeat 8.30 Breakfast with Steve Lamacq 8.30 Movie Update 8.45 John Pilger 10.30 Clare Stewart 1.00am Dave Pearce 4.00am Clive Wearing

RADIO 2

8.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken 11.30 Jimmy Young 7.30 Debbie Thrower 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 Chris Serle 7.00 David Allen's Country Club 8.00 Paul Jones 9.00 Randy Crawford — The Celebrity Soul Show 10.30 The What If Show 10.30 Shelly 7.00 10.30 Richard Allison 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Report 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 8.00 The Magazine 12.00 Midday with Matt 2.00 Radio 5 on Five 4.00 Julie Etchingham Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.30 On the Line 8.00 David Gower's Cricket Weekly includes a review of England's victory over Australia in the first Test of the Ashes series 8.00 Inside Edge 10.00 News Talk with Paul Reynolds 11.00 News Extra 12.30 After Hours with Vincent Hanna 2.00pm Up All Night with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr 7.00 Paul Rose 8.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Deasy 7.00 Anna Reebum 9.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins

Another String Of Burning Gold

Radio 4, 8.45pm

I cannot claim to be much of an enthusiast for the bow and arrow, and archery competitions do not have me sprinting hot foot to their venues. However, Robert Hardy is an actor whose very voice sweeps all argument away in a wave of enthusiasm and I just hope he never switches to selling timeshare or double glazing. This series about the private interests of people famous in a different field talks to Hardy about archery. He caught the bug while visiting Aspinourt to research the role of Henry V in 1960. The vew is apparently the perfect longbow wood. Hardy's house in Scotland is filled with bows, the firing of which he sees as not unlike delivering lines from a stage. Theatre critics be warned.

Peter Barnard

WORLD SERVICE
All times in BST. News on the hour. 6.00am Newsday 6.30 Europe 7.15 World Today 7.30 Middle East 8.15 Africa 8.15 Asia 8.30 Latin America 8.45 Pacific 8.55 Thought 9.15 Turnaround 10.30 Hot New Country 10.05 Business 10.15 A Private View 10.30 BBC English 10.45 Sport 11.30 Discovery 12.30pm Born a Girl 12.45 F.O.C. 10.05 Business 11.30 Britain 1.20 Record News 1.45 Sport 2.00 Newsnow 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Multirack X-Press 4.05 Sportround 4.15 Business 5.00 News 5.30 Britain 5.45 Sport 6.05 News 6.15 World 6.30 News 6.45 America 6.50 Africa 6.55 Asia 6.58 Pacific 7.00 Outlook 7.00 News in Germany 8.00 Sport 7.30 Apartment 8.01 Outlook 8.25 Pease for Thought 8.30 John Peel 9.00 Newsnow 11.30 Business 10.15 Britain 10.20 Mendon Books 11.30 World Today 11.45 Sport 12.05m Outlook 12.30 Vintage Chart Show 13.30 Turning a Tune 1.45 Britain 2.30 The Works 3.30 Focus on Faith 4.00 Business 4.15 Sport 4.30 Europe

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Grattidge 6.00 Alan Marin 8.00 Harry Kelly 1.00am Luncheon Concerto 3.00 Jamie Crichton 7.00 Classic Newsnight 7.30 Sunday 8.00 Evening Concert Ireland (A London Overture); See Fever; Piano Concerto in E flat major; Handel (Concerto No 1 in B flat); Vaughan Williams (Norfolk Rhapsody No 1); Bridge (Rosemary, The Turf's Return); Britten (Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge) 19.00 Michael Mappin 2.00am Luncheon Concerto 19

VIRGIN RADIO

6.30am Russ 'n' Jon 10.00 Graham Dene 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 Nicky Hume 8.00 Paul Coyle (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Richard Porter

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, introduced by Penny Gore, includes Hummel (Septet in C, Op 11), Marsell (Places in Two in E minor); Caplet (Septet), Cavalli (Salve Regalis); Stoltz (The Flower), Op 85; Hobst (St Paul's Suite)

9.00am Music Collection, with Peter Hobday, includes Bach, crich Stoltz (Toccata and Fugue in D minor); Mozart (Fantasia and Sonata in C minor); Rachmaninov (The Rock).

10.00 Musical Encounters, with Keeleen McCue. Includes Honnerer (Intrada); Purcell (Theatrical Music, selection); Hayes (Two Folio Oboe); Blom (Three Concertos); Beethoven (Adagio); Verdi (Can ve la Lucrezia Mover); Beethoven (Piano Concerto No 5 in E flat, Emperor); Anon. (13th Century (Chorus, Wedding Song); Purcell (Te Deum and Jubilate).

12.00 Concerts of the Week: Review

1.00am Victoria Wood, introduced by Stewart, includes the final collection from Iolanthe. Includes extracts from Cavalier Rusticano; Tosca; Andre's Chichey; Francesca da Rimini; Adriano Leocore. Featuring performances by Cosette, Raimondi, Scotti, Gobbi, Muoco, Picco, Oliveri and Colla (1943). Two thousandths, Op 78.

2.00 The John Peel Sessions. Featuring music by Brahms and works dedicated to him by his friends and admirers. Includes a recital by Margaret Fingerlin, piano; Novak (Eclogues, Op 11); Busoni (Etudes in Forme de Variations); Brahms (Two Intermezzi, Op 11).

2.45 The Big Band Show, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, conductor Mark Wigglesworth; Robert Cohen, cello; Wagner (Prelude, Act 1; Parsifal); Shostakovich (Cello Concerto No 1); Sibelius (Symphony No 21).

3.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Fanning Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today's Weather 6.45 Weather

9.00 News 9.05 Face the Facts, with John Waite and his team of investigators (1)

9.30 Relatively Speaking. In the first of a four-part series looking at family relationships, Bruce Reynolds, one of the great tram robbers, and son Nick, talk about life on the run from the authorities.

10.00 News; Travel with My Aunt, by Graham Greene. Starring Dame Judi Dench (4/5)

10.10 Defty Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW)

10.30 Woman's Hour, with Jenni Murray

11.30 From Our Own Correspondent, News from BBC reporters around the world

12.00 News; You and Yours, Consumer news and current affairs with Mark Whittaker

12.25pm Shipping Forecast, with Gillian Wright and Ruth Findlay-Dalney. Professor Lisa Jardine and John Hatch 12.35 Weather

1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke

1.40 The Archers (1.55 Shipping Forecast)

2.00 News; Thursday Afternoon Play; Act of Faith, See Choice. Starring Barbara Marten, Bill Speed, Barrie Plant and Beth Wightman

3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Dame Judi Dench</

THE TIMES THURSDAY JUNE 12 1997

Parenthood is tough? You're not kidding

Now that *Reputations* (BBC2) has tugged enough loose threads to unravel Dr Spock's standing as a childcare guru, don't you find it spooky that both the world's known Spocks have led lives of public adulation, but private torment? Maybe it's a curse. It certainly sounds like a curse ("Hey, Spock off, mister!").

Leonard Nimoy was so depressed by what he saw as the unlovable persona of Mr Spock, the logical Vulcan with pointy ears on the *Starship Enterprise*, that he even wrote a book called *I Am Not Spock* (nobody heard him). After seeing a pilot episode of *Star Trek* in 1968, even NBC's marketing people felt for him. As Nimoy once explained, "The concept in those days was that each of the major characters in a television series had to fulfil a very specific function, and that was to attract a specific portion of the audience which would identify with them.

The mothers had to be attracted to the ladies in the show. The fathers had to be attracted to the leading man, see him as a potential and desirable friend. There was usually a child thrown in for the kids, and an animal for the pet lovers.

All this led the marketing types to ask themselves, 'Who the hell's going to identify with the guy with the pointy ears?'

Now we learn that the gulf between the public and private Benjamin Spocks was just as painful. Spock's Freud-flavoured book, *Baby And Child Care*, has sold 24 million copies. Published in 1946, it fell on a grateful nation knee-deep in nappies filled by the postwar baby boom. The book struck them as a revelation and a liberation. It promoted a new kind of relationship between parents and children. It said love was more important than discipline, and natural instincts more important than strict rules (though obviously

not the natural instinct to shove your baby into the washing machine when it wakes, screaming, for the fourth time that night).

So what did pre-Spock parents think? They thought what people like John Watson, author of *Psychological Care Of Infant And Child*, advised them to think, which was to treat children "as young adults. Never hug and kiss them. Never let them sit in your lap. If you must, kiss them once on the forehead when they say goodnight. You will soon be ashamed at the sentimental way you have been handling it."

But while Dr Spock and his new ideas floated on a sea of public adulation, he still bore the private scars of his own childhood. He was raised by a mother who fed her six children nursery food until they were 13, and who kept her boys in short trousers until they were almost

not the natural instinct to shove your baby into the washing machine when it wakes, screaming, for the fourth time that night).

So what did pre-Spock parents think? They thought what people like John Watson, author of *Psychological Care Of Infant And Child*, advised them to think, which was to treat children "as young adults. Never hug and kiss them. Never let them sit in your lap. If you must, kiss them once on the forehead when they say goodnight. You will soon be ashamed at the sentimental way you have been handling it."

But while Dr Spock and his new ideas floated on a sea of public adulation, he still bore the private scars of his own childhood. He was raised by a mother who fed her six children nursery food until they were 13, and who kept her boys in short trousers until they were almost

grew up with the invidious pressure of being the children of the world's top childcare guru: if they weren't happy, what hope was there for other children? As it turns out, they weren't happy. Spock's son, John, recalls that his father had "never been a person who gave me a hug. He couldn't kiss me. He never kissed me."

Bahaire's film doesn't make clear what it thinks about this. Is the unhappiness of Spock's children a case of nobody being worse than the shoemaker's wife? Was Spock too busy tutoring other parents to be a thoughtful parent himself? Bahaire paints Spock as a hypocrite, an idol with feet of clay. But what if it was precisely because Spock saw his own shortcomings — that his childhood made him the distant father he was — that he forged a new approach to child-rearing? If that is the case, does he deserve to be pilloried? Or to be praised?

John Spock thinks neither: "My father is very much like his mother. I know, from my own experience with my children, that I'm very much like my father, and that this whole process of behaviour cascading down the generations is not something that we can mould and change just by the desire to do so. You can't just be a different person from the person you were raised." Sounds suspiciously like "Spock off, dad!"

If that is true, then it's a big blow to Joyce and David in Lancashire. In last night's second slice of *Trouble With Boys* (BBC2), we saw them put their faith in a pioneering American therapy to turn their aggressive, thieving, 12-year-old delinquent son Paul into something approaching a human being. Daily life in this household would terrify many war correspondents.

Arguments descend from a

cloudless sky like enemy shells. Within seconds, emotional shrapnel has bloodied every member of the family. After a few weeks of following rules of engagement devised by an American delinquency expert, Paul seems to be making progress. Then, from nowhere, comes the whine of a shell, and it has Joyce's name on it: "Will you stop calling me a stupid bitch? You're a bloody brat. You're not going to get better. How can you get better? It's like asking Jack the frigging Ripper to get better, or the bloody Mad Axeman. You're a nutter, lad!" Shortly afterwards, the therapist arrives for the next session. "We had a bad day today," says Joyce, in a deafening, weary whisper.

So 50 years after Spock — like Moses — led parents to the promised land, they are again all at sea. Maybe babies just mutate, like those bacteria which become resistant to traditional antibiotics.

REVIEW

Joe Joseph



ready to shave. "I was scared of my mother and my father," he tells us in one of the many old television clips that season. Ella Bahaire's film "I was scared of other boys on the way to school. I was scared of barking dogs."

Maybe this explains why it was that whatever Dr Spock preached to the world, what he practised in his own home would have gone the blessing of John Watson. His sons

6.00am Business Breakfast (57831)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (52299)
8.00 Breakfast News Extra (5726560)
9.20 Chuggers' Challenge (3645754)
9.45 Kiteley Studio debate (9199851)
10.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (54819)
11.00 News (T) and weather (2250893)
11.05 Real Rooms (7167893)
11.30 The Great Escape (7580)
12.00 News (T) and weather (172718)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (5929522)
12.35 Neighbours (T) (4790388)
1.00 News (T) and weather (55386)
1.30 Regional News (18584909)
1.40 The Weather Show (36059928)
1.45 The Virginian (4117788)
3.00 International Tennis Further action from the Stella Artois Championships where the players will be trying to secure a place in the quarter-finals (1056)
4.00 Popeye (7286611) 4.10 Plasma (1886675) 4.20 Julia Jeffrey and Hamlet Hyde (5570638) 4.35 Return to Jupiter (608218) 5.00 Newsround (T) (8795031)
5.10 The Buz (7457034)
5.35 Neighbours (T) (03675)
5.40 News (T) and weather (763)
5.40 Regional News (265)
7.00 Watchdog Healthcheck Alice Bear puts more medical matters under the microscope, with reports from John Nicolson, Angela Rippon and Toyah Wilcox (T) (2980)
7.30 Eastenders Nigel helps Dot face up to her past and Bianca warns Tiffany she's playing with fire. The future looks bleak for Huw and Lenny as their tenancy agreement comes under scrutiny (T) (299)
8.00 CRIMES Crime Beat: Street Crimes Report on how police are attempting to stop muggers in their tracks by using decoy officers to collar opportunist thieves (T) (8628)
8.30 AIRPORT Airport Documentary series behind the scenes at Heathrow Airport (T) (4873)
9.00 News (T) and weather (9015)
9.30 999 Stories of real-life heroism, including the helicopter rescue of a young woman who plunged 180ft down a cliff face and how two teenagers saved their parents following a serious car crash on the motorway. Plus, the rescue team who risked their lives to help a man trapped in quicksand (T) (85015)
10.20 Noel's La Mans Dream First of two programmes following Noel Edmonds' racing team as they bid to win the 24-hour endurance race at Le Mans (194538)
10.50 Question Time David Dimbleby chairs the debate as public figures discuss questions raised by members of the public in Newcastle (7181096)
11.55 THE STELLIAN (1987) with Christopher Lambert, Terence Stamp, Josie Ackland and John Turturro. Melodrama charting the rise and fall of a Sicilian bandit, whose heroic support of the oppressed peasantry is cut short by the treachery of his friends. Michael Cimino's adaptation of Mario Puzo's novel (883454)
1.45pm Weather (5703684)

Videoplus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes — numbers which allow you to record a programme instantly with a Videoplus+ ("Pluscode") and Video Programme are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.



Jack Davenport plays Miles (9.30pm)

9.30 This Life Miles bids for the junior brief position on Graham's case, as does Anna, who's prepared to go to even greater lengths to get it (T) (251580)

10.15 A Woman Called Smith (629909)

10.30 Newlight (T) (374305)

11.15 The Trouble with Boys Northamptonshire teenagers confront the victims of their crimes (3/3) (772812) 11.45 Picture House (807560) 11.55 Holiday Weather (139744) 12.00 The Midnight Hour (25042)

12.30pm Learning Zone O Ut: South Korea 1.00 Visioning In Action 1.30 Images Over India 2.00 Health and Safety at Work 4.00 Speaking Our Language/French on a Plate 5.00 The Small Business Programme

1.00 *Killer's Kiss* (1989) 6.00 *Snow White* (1994) 6.15 *Midnight Run* (1988) 6.30 *Death Wish III* (1985) 6.45 *Death Wish IV* (1985) 6.55 *Death Wish V* (1989) 6.58 *Death Wish VI* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish VII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish VIII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish IX* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish X* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish XI* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish XII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish XIII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish XIV* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish XV* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish XVI* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish XVII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish XVIII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish XVIX* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish XX* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish XXI* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish XXII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish XXIII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish XXIV* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish XXV* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish XXVI* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish XXVII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish XXVIII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish XXIX* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish XXX* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish XXXI* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish XXXII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish XXXIII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish XXXIV* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish XXXV* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish XXXVI* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish XXXVII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish XXXVIII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish XXXIX* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish XL* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish XLI* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish XLII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish XLIII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish XLIV* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish XLV* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish XLVI* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish XLVII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish XLVIII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish XLIX* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish L* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LIII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LIV* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LV* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LX* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXI* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXIII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXIV* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXV* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXVI* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXVII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXVIII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXIX* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXX* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXI* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXIII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXIV* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXV* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXVI* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXVII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXVIII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXIX* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LX* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXI* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXIII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXIV* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXV* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXVI* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXVII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXVIII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXIX* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LX* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXI* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXIII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXIV* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXV* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXVI* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXVII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXVIII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXIX* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LX* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXI* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXIII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXIV* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXV* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXVI* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXVII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXVIII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXIX* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LX* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXI* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXIII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXIV* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXV* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXVI* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXVII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXVIII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXIX* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LX* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXI* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXIII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXIV* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXV* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXVI* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXVII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXVIII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXIX* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LX* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXI* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXIII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXIV* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXV* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXVI* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXVII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXVIII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXIX* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LX* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXI* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXIII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXIV* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXV* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXVI* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXVII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXVIII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXIX* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LX* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXI* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXIII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXIV* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXV* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXVI* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXVII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXVIII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXIX* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LX* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXI* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXIII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXIV* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXV* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXVI* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXVII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXVIII* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LXIX* (1990) 6.58 *Death Wish LX* (1990) 6.

